St Peter's CE Academy

Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed Septemebr 2026
To be reviewed – annually

Policy Statement

At St. Peter's Academy Alton, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life.
Through this, and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our academies motto:

'Learning together as disciples of Jesus'

It is a time where we come together to share a love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values, which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Christian Values

We identify the values of Love, Friendship and Respect. These values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

Love thy neighbour as thyself. (Mark 12:31)

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection. We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self-esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right, following discussion with the head teacher, to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday	Whole school worship led by Miss Sisson or member of the clergy.
Tuesday	Whole school worship led by Miss Rogers or Jordan (Our Christian Youth Worker).
Wednesday	Whole school worship led by Miss Tomkinson
Thursday	Rota of teachers
Friday	Celebration Worship led by Mrs Grant.

The worship team lead worship at least once a half term.
In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school to lead worship.

At regular intervals, a group of children meet with a member of the governing body to discuss worship, in particular, the impact of collective worship on the children.

Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for our collective worship are taken from the Church calendar, the Fundamental British Values, SMSC topics and rituals and festivals. The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music for the week. The title of this piece of music is shared with the children and could come from a variety of cultures. The candles on the altar table are lit and the worship begins with the adult selecting a pupil to be the worship leader and they then begin the worship by asking the children if they would like to get into position to pray. Our whole school prayer was written by staff and children:

Dear God,
Thank you for helping me to flourish and grow.
Loving myself, my friends and my family.
As we learn together as disciples of Jesus.
Amen

The worship then proceeds, which includes a song or hymn. A reflection time is given towards the end. The worship leader chooses a prayer. The candles are then blown out and the children say '*we are the light of the world*''. We then share the Grace with one another and the worship leader offers the Peace to everyone. The children then lead out as the music is played.

How the children are involved with worship varies from day to day. Sometimes different groups of children lead the worship and we regularly have visitors from local churches. Once a month we visit church where members of the church perform an 'Open the Book worship'. Sometimes worship is arranged for children to explore the ideas of mirrors, windows and doors where they can reflect on varied subjects and their own spirituality.

Celebration worship on Friday celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school. Normally, teachers choose one or two members of their class to receive a special mention and certificate. We have a values certificate, which is awarded to any member of the school community who has shone in showing one, or several, of our school values. Any member of the school community can nominate someone to receive this certificate.

At Harvest, Easter and Christmas we hold special services at the local Church and every other year we organise an Open Door day at St Peter's in Alton. We regularly visit the church when covering certain topics in RE lessons and also for holding some daily acts of worship.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and reflection. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, the school prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced by the worship leader who asks the children to prepare themselves for prayer. The school is actively developing the children's confidence in reciting simple liturgy.

As the children are lining up for lunch a prayer of thanks is said by the class. Prayers are also said at the end of the school day. Every classroom has a Reflective Area, where there is a prayer box and children can use these spaces if they need a moment to reflect during the school day or to write a prayer.

On the worship table there is a Prayer Tree. This is used widely throughout the year. Children have used it to thank God, to ask for support, to think about those who have lost their lives and to explore advent.

Other Faiths

At St Peter's our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values and we are also committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. Some acts of worship may portray

other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

A worship book is kept, recording details of each act of worship. Evaluations will also be recorded here.

Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, St Peter's ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship.

Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St Peter's Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and end of year services. When it fits with their learning we also take the children to the Islamic in Mosque in Derby and the Synagogue in Manchester.

Equal Opportunities and special needs issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of Worship R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

Rebecca Walker and Anna Bennett
Executive Headteacher and Deputy
Executive Headteacher
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