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MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



St Peter's Cross Keys Academy

Collective Worship Policy

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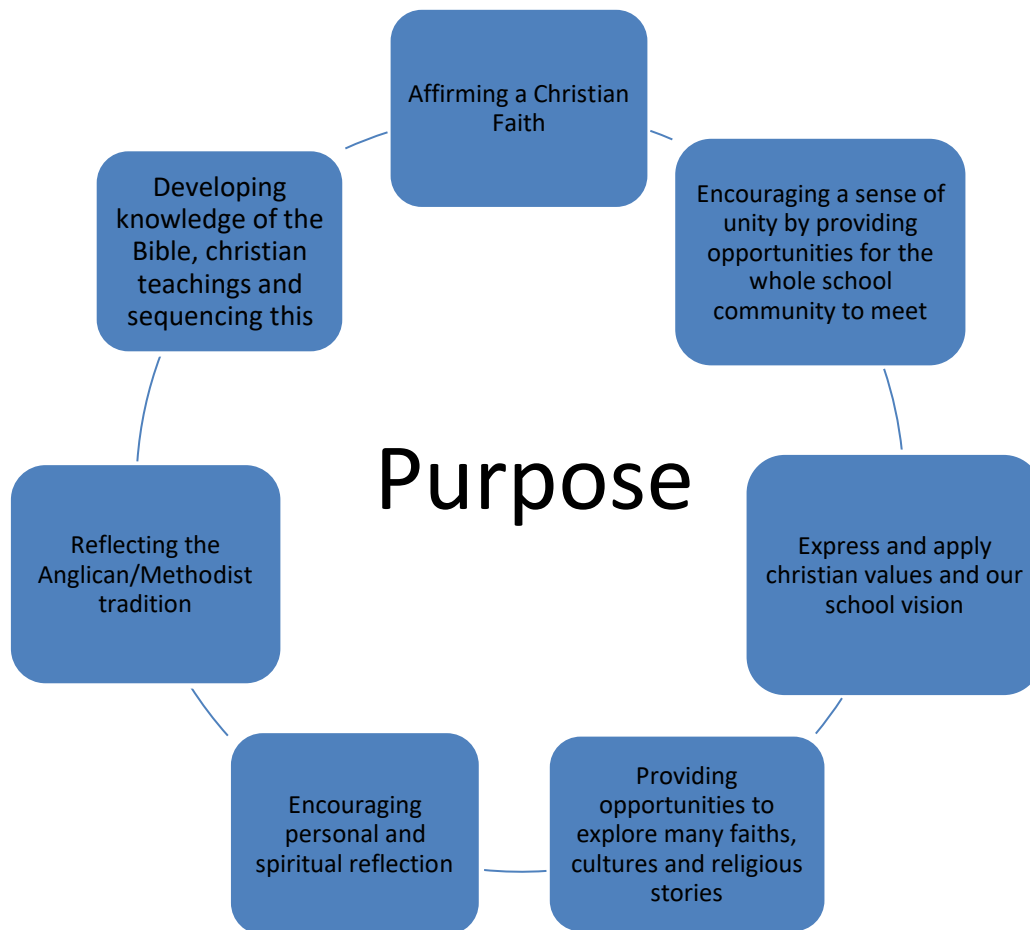
St Peter's Cross Keys C of E Academy

Policy Statement

At St Peter's Cross Keys Academy, 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 mission statement.

'Rooted in love we flourish and grow'

It is a time when we come together to share our love of God and Jesus and celebrate our achievements 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.



Aims

- To provide opportunities for the whole school to come together and reflect through song, prayer and story.
- To provide opportunity for self-reflection.
- To consider how our actions have an impact on other people.
- To consider how others need to be treated.

- To gain some understanding and knowledge of other faiths and creeds.
- To provide children with opportunities of awe and wonder.
- Ensure that all worships are Inclusive, Educational and Spiritual.

Christian Values

We identify our school values of hope, joy, peace, dignity, community and wisdom. These values are introduced at the beginning of each worship and then shared throughout the bible verse, religious story or cultural message being taught. Children are then provided with the opportunity to reflect on what this means to them in their lives at school, home and their wider community.

Planning, Content and Detail

Collective worship is planned on a half termly basis, planning and themes are taken from the 'Roots and Fruits' resource and adapted to ensure it meets the needs of our school community. The themes for collective worship reflect our Christian Values, the Church Calendar, our School Vision and current events. Each half term opportunities are planned for children to develop their social, moral, cultural and spiritual understanding by exploring a range of topics outlined above, ensuring that wider cultural stories and traditions are shared.

The worship begins with the children entering the hall/classroom accompanied by a piece of music for the week. Throughout the term the music played will showcase a variety of cultures. The candle is lit and the worship begins. The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with a prayer and/or quiet reflection time. The candles are then blown out before any messages are given. This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played.

Within the planning and routine of our worship we develop and foster a love for our school environment, nurturing and encouraging all of our school community to respect and care for 'God's' creation. Within this we consistently promote a positive attitude to environmental issues both in our local area, nationally and how we can become responsible global citizens.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act, with guidance taken from DFE circular 1/94, 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 to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher. Teachers have the right to withdraw from collective worship. We link acts of collective worship to the school Equal Opportunities objectives ensuring inclusivity of worship for all faiths and none.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children which create a sense of occasion. Every morning starts with collective worship which is a special time together. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday - Whole school worship led by the Headteacher or Assistant Headteacher.

Tuesday – Whole school worship led by Class Teachers on a rota basis. Rev Liz Murray visits 3/4 times a half term on this day also.

Wednesday – Whole school singing practise, with prayer/reflection time, led by Mrs R Daley.

Thursday – Class worship or House worship, with prayer/reflection time, led by the Class Teacher or House group leaders.

Friday - Whole school celebration assembly led by the Headteacher or Assistant Headteacher. This is always finished with a prayer and reflection time. The Celebration Worship on Friday celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school. Teachers choose two members of their class to receive the learning behaviour award (Team Player, Critical Thinker, Resilient Learner and Problem Solver).

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school.

- Parents are invited to attend worship every month
- Governors are invited to attend worship once a year
- Opportunities are provided for children to lead worship once a term

The assembly/worship should last approximately 20 minutes.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or time for reflection. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and prayers taken from 'roots and fruits'. Prayers are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet, giving children the notification that this is a time to be calm and still. At the beginning of collective worship, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles.

A cross is displayed in each classroom providing an area of reflection and quiet. Each class says a prayer at the end of the school day, the prayer is adapted from the prayer shared in whole school worship. Each classroom has a 'place to be' where children are encouraged to share their thoughts, prayers and take a moment to be.

Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, St Peter's Cross Keys 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. Visits to the school from the local church happen half termly, with visits from wider church leaders happening yearly.

Celebrating and embracing all religious communities is incredibly important at St Peter's Cross Keys. We strive to ensure a diverse and thorough representation of all faith groups, through both visitors to school, remote worships and/or artefacts that have been brought into school.

Visits to St Peter's Church are an extremely valuable resource and are used frequently throughout the year. With the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Welcome, Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services. We visit for church workshops annually. We welcome the opportunity to share worship with parents during the major Christian festivals both in school and at St Peter's Church.

Responsibilities

Foundation governors (Rev Liz Murray and Jessica Colson) fulfil their statutory duties for governors. They monitor the quality of collective worship by visiting and regularly reviewing with the Head Teacher / Co-ordinator.

Acting Head Teacher (Matthew Tomlinson) takes responsibility for daily acts of collective worship and monitoring the quality of collective worship.

Collective Worship Co-ordinator, Matthew Tomlinson, takes responsibility for planning collective worship and organising the coverage of themes and values. House group monitoring and evaluation is also undertaken by Co-ordinators.

Class teachers / Leaders of Collective Worship are responsible for using the long and medium term plans to create daily worship sessions and deliver them.

Role of the Co-ordinator

The co-ordinator undertakes a number of roles including;

Communication between RE and Collective Worship Co-ordinator

Identify and record themes and resources

Support for colleagues on delivering collective worship

Identifying training needs

Monitor acts of worship and evaluating impact

Ensuring all staff recognise the need to develop themes and content beyond collective worship

The Distinction between Collective Worship and Assembly

Assembly is:

Meeting together for a common Purpose e.g. a visiting theatre company in school or the need to give out important notices or deal with a common concern.

Collective Worship is:

A coming together of the school community for the purpose of engaging in an opportunity to worship. In each act of collective worship some of the elements of worship (i.e. of 'giving worth to God') must be present.

Policy reviewed: July 2024

Next renewal: July 2026

Signed: Chair of Governors:



Date: 7/2024

Headteacher:



Date: 7/2024