

Simonstone St. Peter's CE School

Collective Worship Policy

'Let everything that has breath praise the Lord'. Psalm 150 v 6

'Keys to Faith and Knowledge'



Our Mission Statement

At Simonstone School we want all children to
Be confident and happy about who they are.

Have knowledge and skills for life and to work together and make friends.

Learn to have faith and understand differences.

Learn through Jesus that we are loved and can love; that we can talk to others; find guidance to be a better and stronger person, to know right from wrong and find forgiveness.

To show care, kindness and appreciation in the world.

At Simonstone St. Peter's CE School we believe that Worship has a very important role to play in the life of our School. It is an opportunity to praise together, celebrate together, pray together, be still together and reflect together as well as supporting our school curriculum.

Aims

The main aims of Worship at Simonstone St. Peter's CE School are:

- To establish, explore and reinforce some of the common Christian Values of the School community such as love, kindness, compassion, forgiveness and charity.
- To promote the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To share with the participants some of the central teachings of the Christian faith at a level appropriate to the age and maturity of the children, thereby giving them the encouragement to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework.
- To value the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance.
- To celebrate the values and worth of the School community and all who belong in it, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of our children.
- To help develop respect, understanding and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others.
- To provide opportunities for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children.
- To respect and care for God's creation by encouraging a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues.

- To help the children develop an understanding of both the nature and language of Worship including symbols and imagery.
- To support the curriculum through the use of music, art, story, drama, ICT and other visual and oral communication.

Collective Worship at St. Peter's

The School meets daily for Collective Worship but there are other times when we assemble together for other purposes E.G. to make important announcements and share notices. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply.

We understand Worship to be a special act where the purpose is to show reverence towards God. At Simonstone St. Peter's we hold a daily act of Collective Worship. We conduct Worship in a dignified and respectful way. We regard it as a very special time and expect the children to behave appropriately. As the children come into Collective Worship music is generally played. We ask the children to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayers and hymns.

The Head Teacher, Deputy Head and other staff lead Worship on a planned rota basis. Worship generally takes place in the School/Church hall however on occasions - weather permitting, the school grounds are used allowing the children to be immersed in God's creation and his goodness.

On a fortnightly basis, Worship is led by our vicar, the Rev'd Robert and we also welcome visitors from CASCOT (Church and School Christian Outreach Trust) and Blackburn Diocese to celebrate with us and lead Worship. We have different themes for Worship throughout the School year which follow the traditions of Christian faith and values and often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We also use key themes such as love, joy, trust, sharing, tolerance and forgiveness. We believe that these themes are clearly Christian in nature but are universal in their application. Sometimes the themes of our Worship reflect and consolidate topics and events that are part of the School curriculum. Visitors are always provided with a copy of the School Worship plan so they can link into our Worship themes accordingly.

We recognise that in our School we have children from a variety of faith backgrounds and that many children have no religious background at all. Great care is taken during Worship to ensure that all children feel valued and special and that integrity as human beings is consistently upheld. Collective Worship at Simonstone St. Peter's is an inclusive activity.

We have extremely positive links with our local Church, Clergy and congregation. The School participates in major festivals in the Church with special Services. Parents and friends are invited to Friday Worship and celebration on a fortnightly basis. All our Year 6 pupils are presented with a Christian keepsake (bible or handheld cross) from the Church and Governors during their leaver's service; parents and carers are again invited to this service.

We invite parents and friends to our fortnightly family worship, to a termly School Eucharist Service and to our three family festival services which take place on Sunday mornings each year (Harvest, Christmas Service and Palm Sunday Easter service). We also have a 'Messy Church' service which takes place on the second Friday of every month in the Church/School hall. This is an early evening service which actively involves the children, parents and grandparents celebrating together. This promotes the Christian Community spirit of the School and is a practical demonstration of the way that home, school and church work together to support the achievements of our children.

The Rev'd Robert holds confirmation classes on an annual basis in the Autumn term. This is open to children in years 5 and 6, as well as parents who wish to be confirmed.

The Legal Position

Arrangements for Collective Worship in a Church School are the responsibility of the Governors in consultation of the Head Teacher. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act there are three main requirements for Collective Worship:

- Collective Worship in a Church School should be carried out in accordance with the school's Founding Trust Deed and in accordance with the School's Ethos Statement, which is found in the statutory instrument of Government.
- The School must provide an act of Collective Worship for all pupils every day. Furthermore, acts of Worship 'must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character, i.e. reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief'. This act of Worship can take place at any time of the School day and in any regular school grouping E.G. whole school, key stage or class unit.
- Parents may withdraw their child from Collective Worship on religious grounds. This statement should also be included in the school prospectus. (The 'religious grounds' do not have to be justified and explained by the parents). Parents who have any concerns about the provision and practice of Collective Worship are strongly encouraged to contact the Head Teacher. Should children be withdrawn adequate supervision will be provided to ensure their safety during the period that Worship takes place. The Head Teacher must complete a record of all children who withdraw from Worship.

Context of Collective Worship at Simonstone St. Peter's CE School

In order to promote Worship and Children's learning, our Worship pattern is set out below:
Monday 10.00am – Whole School Worship/Introduction of weekly theme led by Head Teacher or Rev'd Robert (fortnightly)

Tuesday 10.00am – Key Stage Worship

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 Worship (in Class 1 or 2 - Teacher led).

Key Stage 2 Worship (in Class 3, Teacher led).

Wednesday 10.00am – Whole School Worship led by Head Teacher/Deputy Head

Thursday 10.00am – Whole School, Prayer and Praise (Teacher)

Friday 2.45pm – Whole School Worship, conclusion of weekly theme and celebration of children's achievements. Worship led by Head Teacher, parents invited on a fortnightly basis.

The children play an important part in the life of our School and regularly contribute to acts of Worship. The children have developed a 'Worship and Reflect' evaluation book where they record and evaluate our acts of Worship. In consultation with the Worship team, this is then

used to inform future planning and is a tool to ensure that Worship remains engaging and meaningful to our pupils.

How do we ensure that our assemblies are Collective Worship?

It is still customary in Schools for children, teachers and parents to use the term 'assembly' when they are referring to an 'act of collective Worship'. This accepted shorthand should not be allowed to blind us to the differences between the two activities. School frequently assemble for a common purpose. There may be for example, a visiting theatre group or the need to meet to share important notices. During these occasions, pupils withdrawn from Collective Worship should join the rest of the School for the duration of these gatherings. There are many elements which Worship and assembly have in common, such as helping children to develop common standards and values, or to develop an awareness of, and a concern for, the needs of others. However, the presence of these common elements alone does not turn an assembly into an act of Worship. In each and every act of Collective Worship some elements of Worship E.G. giving worth to God must be present.

An assembly may include Collective Worship. Not every Assembly is Collective Worship.

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of named school Governor (Rev'd Robert) with responsibility for Religious Education and Worship along with the Head Teacher (also subject leader) to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship. Staff also have the opportunity to observe one another and offer constructive feedback to colleagues on their strengths and areas for development when leading Worship

Date of review – Spring Term 2016

Next review 2018