



Collective Worship Policy

St Helen's Primary School

The Collective Worship Policy at St Helen's Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act and the 1996 education Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', and in recognition of the fact that some of our pupils are practising members of other faiths, we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths.

The Collective Worship Policy of St Helen's Primary School is also linked with our school core values, which can be seen on the school website. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school, meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School: Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of St Helen's Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

For the Pupils: We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship appropriately in a broadly Christian way or approach the threshold of worship
- reflect on that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reflect on the direction of their lives
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human
- consider the wonders and worries of the world
- express shared experiences of joy and sorrow
- experience the ritual and vocabulary of worship

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in St Helen's Primary School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes.

At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives. The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice.

To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it will address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

The Management of Collective Worship

The Headteacher will plan, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall or the classroom. Collective acts of worship are incorporated into whole school assemblies and/or class based weekly sessions. At St Helen's, we follow a Collective worship weekly timetable, which can be seen below

Monday: Whole school assembly based on one of our core school or British values.

Tuesday- Incorporating a time for prayer and reflection at the end of reading or writing assembly incorporating lessons learned in their learning.

Wednesday- Whole school Open the Book assembly, incorporating the telling of a Bible story and discussion of the lessons it teaches us, or alternate weeks of PSHE theme, incorporating an opportunity for the children to reflect on their own beliefs and feelings.

Thursday- Music assembly, a chance for the children to come together to appreciate, learn and share a range of music.

Friday- Whole school assembly celebrating achievements throughout the school, incorporating a reflection time/school prayer at the end.

We also have termly visits from the GenR8 whose assemblies are based on how the Bible supports us to live our lives.

A candle is lit to focus the children, signalling that the CAW is taking place.

Leadership

Every member of the teaching staff and regular visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. Termly assembly rotas including a

range of themes, special occasions and events will be followed, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Themes for the half term will be introduced in a whole school assembly at the beginning of each week/ short period of weeks and focussed on during whole school assemblies led by school staff.

Value	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Core	Compassion	Respect	Trust	Courage	Resilience	Endurance
British	Tolerance of different cultures and religions	Mutual Respect	Rule of Law	Democracy	Individual liberty	
Bible story link	The Good Samaritan	Luke Ch6 Vs 27-36 Jesus teaches about how to treat others	Genesis Ch.12 vs 1-9 Abraham trusted God	Daniel Ch.3 The fiery furnace	The story of Jonah	The story of St. Paul the apostle
Historical figure link	Mother Theresa St Francis of Assisi	Martin Luther King	Simon Thomas	Dietrich Bohnhoeffer	Gemma Hunt	Eric Liddell

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils and use language sensitively and appropriately.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made preceding the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made.

Withdrawal

Our assemblies will be conducted in a manner as sensitive and inclusive as to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend the assembly however parents retain the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship.

Date agreed	8.2.23
Date to be reviewed	February 2025

Signed: Head teacher *JH Walker*

Signed: Chair of Governors