



ST JAMES
C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

DREAM • BELIEVE • LEARN • ACHIEVE

"With God, there is no limit to what you can do. There is no obstacle you can't overcome. Through Him, all things are possible."

Matthew 19:26

Collective Worship Policy

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Aims of Collective Worship

At St James, we aspire to ensure that collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspirational. To achieve this, we underpin our worship offer through our Christian vision of *“With God, there is no limit to what you can do. There is no obstacle you can’t overcome. Through Him, all things are possible.”* **Matthew 19:26**. Our Christian values of respect, peace, love, forgiveness, honesty and hope are also rooted into collective worship. We aim to ensure children and adults encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and develop an understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God. We aim to develop both children and adults spiritually by providing opportunities for prayer, stillness, worship and reflection. We aim to develop the skills of children and adults in the planning, delivery and evaluation of worship to find ways to continually improve the offer of worship in our school.

Inclusive Worship

At St James, we ensure that collective worship is inclusive by:

- Being fully accessible for children and adults of all or no faith;
- Using reflection time that is personal to the individual and there is no expectation to share;
- Giving individuals the opportunity to meet and explore God through the teachings of Jesus and the Bible, our Christian values and vision;
- Giving individuals the opportunity to ask and answer questions in response to the content of collective worship;
- Providing opportunities for different adults and groups of children to plan and deliver worship;
- Including children in the delivery of worship;

Invitational Worship

At St James, we ensure that collective worship is invitational by:

- Using a routine that welcomes all to the worship – sharing our vision, lighting our worship candle, reflection time and school prayer;
- Using a variety of methods to present collective worship to provide the opportunity to engage such as stories, videos, acting out, singing;
- Inviting participants in worship to “get ready to pray” or to “get comfortable for prayer” so that this can be done in a way to suit the individual;
- Carefully choosing a mix of music that reflects the wider Christian community;
- Having a liturgy that is connected to the Christian vision and values, but also educates adults and children on the parables of Jesus, prominent people and stories from the Old and New Testaments, Fruits of the Spirit and celebrating special times in the Christian calendar.

Inspirational Worship

At St James, we ensure that collective worship is inspirational by:

- Using the technique of mirrors, windows and doors to encourage adults and children to reflect and take action;
- Giving participants of worship the opportunity to ask and answer questions;
- Encouraging participants of worship to become courageous advocates of causes;
- Using worship evaluation books as a tool for reflection on the teachings of worship and how this will impact on individuals or groups of children.

Organisation of Worship

Context: The school's Christian vision and values underpin the planning of worship. To compliment this, each half term worship will include a parable of Jesus, a prominent person and story from the Old and New Testament and a fruit of the spirit. Yearly and termly plans are in place to ensure coverage and will also reflect special times in the Christian calendar. The theme for each collective worship is shared with the adults and children within the worship session.

Gathering: Worship in the school hall begins with a focus on the 'worship table' where the worship candle will be lit. The artefacts on the worship table allows adults and children to become familiar with the trinitarian nature of God – Bible, cross and worship candle. There is also a moment of stillness, reflection and prayer. Singing will usually take place at this point.

Engaging and Responding: Worship engages adults and children through the use of story, video, drama for example. Participants of worship are invited to ask or answer questions at relevant points within the worship. Groups of pupils are given opportunities to plan and deliver worship. Further opportunities for prayer and reflection are invited.

Sending: Participants may be asked to reflect using mirrors, windows and doors. There are opportunities for 'doors challenges' - how the worship will impact on what they do after the worship. The worship candle is blown out, and adults and children are reminded about the Holy Spirit always being with us. The peace may be shared.

Outside of the worship session, pupils and adults are invited to complete worship evaluation to explore the impact that worship has had on them as individuals, and how we can improve worship for it's participants.

The current pattern of worship is:

Monday: Whole school worship led by the Headteacher

Tuesday: Whole school worship led by the Deputy Headteacher

Wednesday: Week 1: Key Stage Two worship in the hall/Key Stage One Wiggle Worship in class
Week 2: Key Stage One worship in the hall/Key Stage Two worship in class

Thursday: Class based worship led by the Classteacher and includes 'The Big Question' or 'Ethos to Go'

Friday: Whole school worship followed by celebration

Legal Requirements of Worship

Daily collective worship has to be provided for every pupil and is distinctly Christian. This worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, separate key stage groups, or in classes. Worship may take place at any point in the school day.

Parents may withdraw their child/ren from collective worship. If any parent wishes to exercise this right, then we request that this is discussed with the headteacher and/or RE leader.