

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY STATEMENT



**At St Peter's we believe that all our Christian values stem from Love.
The Love that God has for us, that we have for God and that we
show each other**

Approved by:	Reported to Full Governing Body	Date: 24.3.2026
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St Peter-in-Thamet C.E. (VA) Junior School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY STATEMENT

Collective worship is regarded as central to the affirmation of our Christian value of Love, our underlying values and the distinctive character of the school. It offers important opportunities to strengthen our community, reinforcing the positive feelings we have for one another. Collective worship also makes a valuable contribution to our children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

1. Aims

The broad aims of collective worship include:

- To introduce pupils to the experience of Christian worship and teaching in an open and caring atmosphere
- To foster a sense of unity by valuing and celebrating belonging to a caring school within the wider Christian community
- To provide opportunities for expressing thankfulness and wonder for God's creation
- To develop a sensitivity towards an awareness of the spiritual dimension of life
- To enhance the spiritual, moral and cultural development of pupils by encouraging reflection on moral and social issues
- To create an awareness of our own moral responsibilities by drawing on Christian teachings and other resources
- To encourage pupils to reflect on their own values and those of others
- To allow pupils to experience Anglican traditions and to encourage understanding and tolerance towards others
- To enable pupils to express and understand their faith in a school setting
- To foster school unity by celebrating the achievements of others.

2. Collective worship and the law

We comply with the legal requirement that every child should be provided with a daily act of worship, unless withdrawn by his/her parent.

As a voluntary aided school the act of worship must satisfy the trust deed of the school that the worship is consistent with Anglican belief and practice.

According to the Education Act 1988 Section 9(3), parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of worship and the responsibility of the child remains the duty of the school.

As a Church School, with a clear statement of its commitment to Christian values, it is hoped that all parents would wish their children to take part in the provision for collective worship and would discuss any concerns with the head teacher before applying to withdraw their children.

3. Organisation

Acts of Collective Worship throughout the year, take a variety of forms:

- Whole and Half school gatherings
- 'Heartsmart' - Individual class worship
- Upper / Lower school 'Praise and Reflection'
- and services in St Peter's Church.

A typical week of Collective Worship at St Peters, would be as follows:

Monday – Half school worship - in 2 sessions - led by Headteacher (Tim Whitehouse)

-Year 3 and 6 9:00-9:15

-Year 4 and 5 9:20-9:35

Tuesday – Half school worship- in 2 sessions - led by PI and a range of local church leaders.

-Year 3 and 6 9:00-9:15

-Year 4 and 5 9:20-9:35

Wednesday – Praise and Refection (year 3 and 4) – led by Music Teacher AK
Heartsmart teacher led in classrooms (Year 5 and 6)

Thursday - Praise and Refection (year 5 and 6) – Anna
Heartsmart teacher led in classrooms (Year 3 and 4)

Friday - Half school worship- in 2 sessions - led by PI and a range of local church leaders

-Year 3 and 6 9:00-9:15

-Year 4 and 5 9:20-9:35

Half-school assemblies are led by the head teacher, a member of the clergy, groups of children, a member of teaching staff or visitors from organisations such as charities.

Services are held at St Peter-in-Thamet Parish church at Easter, Christmas and Harvest Festival, and on other occasions as appropriate (e.g. end of the school year for our year 6 Leavers service). At these services the pupils, taken from all year groups, take an active part in the preparation and delivery:

through writing their own prayers, readings, selecting of hymns and contributions made through music, artwork and drama. Parents are invited to attend these services.

All class teachers are committed to the value of collective worship in promoting Christian values and developing the overall ethos of the school. Worship in class groups takes place on Wednesdays for upper school and Thursdays for the lower school. Class worship, which incorporates HeartSmart church schools PSHE, involves children in a range of activities to encourage their thinking around range of contextual topics and thoughtful questions. Each of these sessions will begin with a worship song (to sing or listen to and incorporate both a prayer and Bible verse to underpin the conversation).

Praise and Reflection takes place on Wednesdays for the lower school and Thursdays for the upper school. This gives an opportunity for children to explore the significance and meaning of the words sung in hymns and choruses appropriate to the Christian calendar and season. A time of quiet reflection is given and individual children or staff are given the opportunity to offer a prayer.

Each of these moments give space for Spirituality to find its voice: in the stillness and the silence; in our questions and responses; in our thoughts and feelings; in our awareness of the world beyond our everyday experience.

4. Planning and Co-ordination

School Collective Worship themes are drawn up for each term in line with the Diocesan Board of Education Collective Worship Framework, thus ensuring assemblies have a clear focus and continuity. The Collective Worship Coordinator distributes a list of these to Woship leaders and teaching staff to enable assembly themes to be explored / referred to in class worship and curriculum lessons. Class worship is planned using HeartSmart resources.

The Collective Worship leader, in collaboration with Parish Church leaders (and the music coordinator) is responsible for the planning, preparation and coordination of the services held in the parish churches.

5. Delivery and Content

The acts of worship are designed to be appropriate to the age range and abilities of the children in the school.

Although the format of individual acts of worship differ in content, the aim is to provide a varied range of styles and experiences, which include listening, singing, reflective silence and prayer.

Children participate actively in their classroom-based worship, in 'Praise and Reflection', in special church services and informally during other assemblies as invited by the worship leaders.

6. Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation

A central record of whole school worship is maintained by children. The coordinator keeps this record list of the date, theme/ content and leader of the worship.

Staff attend the daily acts of worship regularly, with all teaching staff present for Clergy led assemblies. Governors also attend from time to time. A gathering of those involved in delivering Collective Worship within school meet together, providing an opportunity for monitoring the quality of collective worship.

7. Resources and Budgeting

A variety of resources is available to support collective worship, including books and online media. Resources for collective worship are obtained from a dedicated budget allocation. This Government pays for copyright licensing.

8. Church Links and Use of Visitors

As a school, we have been blessed to be so wonderfully supported by leaders for a wide range of local churches. The parish priests (at St Peters and St Andrews churches); the Pastors of both St Peters Baptist Church and Thanet Community church regularly lead Collective Worship for the school on Tuesdays and Fridays. The collective worship co-ordinator liaises with these, and other groups such as charitable organisations, over practical arrangements and worship content. Inclusion of worship leaders such as our Baptist Minister enhances community cohesion.

Family services and Sunday school / Holiday club activities are published on the school newsletter. The school receives a copy of the parish magazine regularly.

9. Review

This policy will be subject to review and revision by the RE / CW Co-ordinator.