



St. James' Blackburn  
CE Primary School

### Vision Statement

Guided by our Christian Values we endeavour to inspire, cherish and serve our school community. We strive to be exceptional in all we do. We will nurture a love of all God's children. We seek to build respect for all faiths and beliefs.

*'Serve one another in love' (Galatians 5.13)*

### Mission Statement

Together we value, inspire and develop each other within a happy, safe community based on Christian values and respect for other faiths.

*'Show respect to everyone'*

*(Peter 1 2.17)*

## LOVE

*'Serve one another in love'*

*(Galatians 5.13)*

## RESPECT

*'Show respect to everyone'*

*(Peter 1 2.17)*

## COURAGE

*'Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'*

*(Joshua 1.9)*

# Worship Policy

Date Agreed by Governors: 31/03/2022

Reviewed Date: January 2025

## **School Vision**

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## **School Mission Statement**

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## **School Values**

The school has nine school values underpinned by 3 core Christian Values of:

### **Courage**

*'Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'* (Joshua 1.9)

### **Love**

*'Serve one another in love' (Galatians 5.13)*

### **Respect**

*'Show respect to everyone' (Peter 1 2.17)*

Collective Worship is defined by the children of the Worship Committee at St James' as,

"During Worship we learn new things every day. We look at the School values and put them into our own lives. We learn about Christianity and other religions and their special times. It is a time for everyone to celebrate and be together."

*St James' Worship Committee, March 2021*

Collective Worship is an opportunity to come together to worship God, consider spiritual and moral issues and learn about Christian values. Worship should encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship, singing a hymn or through listening to and joining in with the worship offered. It should include time for prayer which allows the school community to give gratitude and share their hopes and fears. Worship is a time to be able to celebrate God's given talents and abilities. Worship gives the time for silent reflection and for contemplation, set in a context clearly designed for worship through the use of candles, pictures, scriptures or objects associated with worship.

Christian values are built in to the ethos and teaching of school, whilst encouraging an understanding and respect for other world faiths. We promote care and respect for both the school and wider environments. We seek to educate and prepare all the children for the world of work; to be capable of making a positive contribution to society, and to achieve their full potential.

At St. James' pupils come from a variety of faiths and ethnic backgrounds. The diversity this creates as a school community generates a richness and with it great strength. The majority of the children come from an Asian heritage background with the Islamic religion being the main faith. Therefore worship is dealt with in a sensitive manner catering for the different faiths within the school community.

## **1. Fundamentals**

St James' Church of England Voluntary Aided School collective worship is in conformity with the ethos statement and the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the trust Deed and has a Christian emphasis. Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at Parish/ Diocesan level. The daily act of collective worship required by law in the school shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England and the basic curriculum required by law in the school shall include Religious Education consistent with the faith of the Church of England.

### ***Ethos Statement***

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers all pupils.

Collective Worship contributes to the working out of our Ethos Statement through our vision, mission statement and the aims and ethos of the school, and therefore to the Christian Education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of the school.

Collective Worship is at the heart of school life and Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and reflection in the curriculum generally and at the end of the sessions.

The Church of England Forms of worship within our denomination differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship whilst remaining true to the school's Trust Deeds. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church.

## **2. Collective Worship and assembly**

The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parent's rights to withdraw their children do not apply.

## **3. Worship in the school and Visitors**

While reflecting our denomination, the school takes into account the levels of development of pupils. It will take into account the faiths and religious beliefs of the children and parallels drawn between faiths to increase understanding. Worship makes a significant contribution to the ethos of the school and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, and helps to build respect for all faiths and beliefs.

The school has close links with St. James' Church. A team of lay people under the leadership of the Vicar and Lay Reader will lead acts of worship as agreed between the Headteacher, Vicar and Worship Leader. The children visit the Church for services at certain times of the year.

#### **4. The provision of Collective Worship conforms to Diocesan Policy**

The Governing Body as a whole is responsible for determining the nature of Religious Education in School.

Collective Worship at St James' is in accordance with the Trust Deeds and has taken account of guidance offered by the Local Authority and Diocese. Therefore, the provision of collective worship conforms to Diocesan Policy.

#### **5. The relationship to Denominational Religious Education**

Religious Education and Worship are kept largely separate and not connected in delivery. However, children may continue the themes explored during worship into their learning in class at other times. RE and Worship do complement and enrich one another but they are also distinctive.

#### **6. Responsibility for the policy**

This policy has been developed in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team, Staff, Governors and the Worship Committee. These are responsible for keeping staff informed about current developments and for providing a strategic lead and direction for worship in the school. The implementation and coordination of this Worship Policy is the responsibility of the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and Worship Leader.

#### **7. Statement of broad aims**

The aims of worship are:

- To Worship God.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith.
- To contribute to the Vision, Mission statement and values of the school.
- To create an environment in which children and adults have the opportunity to Worship.
- To contribute to the spiritual and moral development of pupils.
- To develop links with the local Church and introduce pupils to the Worship heritage of the Church of England.

As a school we endeavour to nurture a love of all God's children and ensure that worship is open and accessible to all pupils. Worship helps to create a happy and safe community for all pupils and staff.

## **8. Organisation and Delivery**

The pattern of Worship times, locations and groupings is available from the Worship Leader and is subject to annual review.

Though Worship is not designated as curriculum time under current DFE regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school. Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of the National Curriculum and Religious Education and frequently involves teaching and learning activities, such as discussion and question and answer. Pupils may be read to, instructed or they may be asked to listen to readings or to think about and respond to a stimulus such as a work of art, artefact or an interactive stimulus such as an image on the whiteboard.

Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt. Pupils may be involved in leading worship or performing through dance, drama or music. When any such activities occur, they may be counted as teaching time even though they take place within Worship. It is appropriate that, in a Church school, Worship and learning is seen as a seamless whole, even though for the purposes of recording teaching time, we distinguish between the two.

We believe that it is initially important to set the correct atmosphere for Worship. Therefore children and staff enter quietly. The person taking Worship is ready in the hall to receive the children. Music is played as the children enter and leave the hall. This may be used to provide an atmosphere of calm or it may reflect the theme of the Worship. Worship usually takes place in the Key Stage One or Key Stage Two halls. Both these places have a Worship area and often have relevant material to stimulate interest or reflection. Visual stimuli are also used during acts of Worship to focus thought and reflect the special nature of the gathering-these could be religious artefacts, books, personal possessions, candles or items relating to the theme.

Opportunities will be provided for parents, family and governors to attend.

Notices will be kept separate from Worship. This will be done in a variety of ways including:

- Notices being given by a different person from the Worship leader.
- Notices being given either before the start of worship or after the end.

Worship takes place in the Church at Festival times during the year. These services may be led by the children, a member of staff, the Vicar or Lay Team or a combination.

Worship is an important part of school life, and therefore children will not normally be withdrawn.

## **9. Content and Approaches**

Content is arranged in half term themes. These take account of seasons in the school year, Church festivals, the celebration of curriculum work, the school values and the children's common experience and religious beliefs.

The acts of Worship may be adult or pupil led and includes a wide variety of activity including storytelling, music, visual aids, dance, drama etc.

During each act of Worship children will be given opportunities for reflection. This will be done in a variety of ways including periods of silence, prayers being said, music being played, lighting a candle, watching a slide show of images on the interactive whiteboard or focusing on an object.

While recognising the multi faith nature of the school, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith.

These may include:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and though sinful, destined for eternal life
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God
- The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity
- The central place of the Bible as God's word and a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance
- The importance of prayer
- How Christianity is practised by other denominations and in other countries
- The central symbols of Christianity
- The cycle of the Church year.

Children are encouraged to take part in prayer at key points during the day i.e. before lunch and before departing at the end of the day. Some classes may use their own personal prayers or the whole school prayer may be used. Whilst praying, children are encouraged to be calm and show consideration for reflection.

## **9. Resources**

Money is allocated to Worship annually to allow for replacement and up-dating of resources. Books, posters, artefacts etc. can be found in in each building. Specific Worship books can be found in the Worship cupboard in the KS2 hall. The Collective Worship Leader is responsible for purchasing resources.

## **10. Consultation, Management, Recording and Review**

The Collective Worship leader co-ordinates the planning of Worship, advises on class / group worship, keeps up to date with resources and diaries with the Music Leader, the creative arts Leader and Key Stage Leaders, as well as the Vicar and Lay Team to plan services and Worship. The Worship Leader will also keep

records of acts of worship.

The continuous Professional Development (CPD) of staff is a high priority within school and as a result regular training is provided, according to the school development plan, to support staff in their planning and delivery of high quality worship. This CPD is led by the Leadership Team who attend regular Diocesan training and clusters within the Diocese to ensure their knowledge is up to date.

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and Worship leader to regularly monitor and evaluate the quality and content of worship, regularly reporting to Governors and ensuring the policy is reviewed regularly.

### **11. The legal requirements for collective worship in school**

Collective Worship in Church Schools is governed by both the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts as well as by the Trust Deed of the School. The Collective Worship provided by the school must be in accordance with the Trust Deed.

Daily Collective Worship is provided for every pupil. This Worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, separate Key Stage groups, year groups or in classes, but not faith groups. Worship may take place at any point in the school day.

Worship should normally take place on the school premises, but may take place in Church on special occasions.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from worship. This provision and its limitations are indicated in the school Prospectus. The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

It is hoped that any complaint about the provision of Worship at St James' will be resolved by the Head teacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese or District. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures will come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.

### **12. Worship during periods of closure/remote learning or restrictions within school**

When necessary, temporary changes to Worship may be implemented and this will be reflected in the half termly Worship planners. During periods of closure or remote learning Worship will be delivered via Microsoft Teams. This will be a mixture of SLT/PLT led and class teacher led. When pupils are in school but unable to join collectively for Worship it will be delivered to each class by the class teacher or PLT/SLT (via pre-recorded video or Microsoft Teams). Visits to Church may be temporarily suspended and in their place pre-recorded sessions will be delivered to the whole school using Microsoft Teams. These will include participation of the Worship Committee and the Vicar and Lay People of St James' Church.

**Appendix**

**WORSHIP TIMETABLE**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Led By</b>	<b>Attending</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Whole school	Agreed worship theme/ special worships	SLT	All Staff, unless agreed otherwise Rota
<b>Tuesday</b>	Class Worship	Introducing the Value of the Week linked to a Bible Story/reacting to significant local, national and international events	Class Teacher	Class Teachers
<b>Wednesday</b>	Key Stage 1/ EYFS  Key Stage 2	Planned Worship of:  Songs of Praise linked with either Christian Values, special events and God's world  Or  Key Stage Worship	DHT/ AHT/ Music Lead   Or  Class Teachers	Rota
<b>Thursday</b>	Key Stage 1/EYFS  Key Stage 2	Planned Worship of:  Year led Worships linked with either Christian Values, special events and God's world  Visitor led Worships  Exceptional Learning Worship celebrating gifts and talents	AHT/Class Teacher/ visitor   AHT/Class Teacher/ visitor	Rota
<b>Friday</b>	Whole School	Celebration of achievement linked with either Christian Values, special events and God's world	HT/DHT	All Staff, unless agreed otherwise



Worship will start at 9:00 and finish at 9:20 unless otherwise agreed.

1. Staff and children should enter and leave the hall in a quiet calm manner.
  2. Music should be used to aid reflection and spirituality, and should be varied throughout the year.
  3. All children and staff are encouraged to join in prayers and reflection with a time of silence during reflection.
  4. Planned worship on Thursdays will be flexible to allow the community and visitors to be involved.
  5. Welcome must include the 'Peace' and the lighting of 3 candles to signify the Trinity.
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The themes and values for each week will be planned by SLT and the RE and Worship lead. Teachers will then be responsible for planning their worships around these themes and values. These can be found on the half termly worship planners.

### **Planned Worship will be timetabled to include:**

- **Class worship**

The purpose of these is to give each class a chance to share their understanding of Christian values (the emphasis being on the core values). These tend to take place in the classroom with the class teacher, but can take place in all areas e.g. outdoor. They should include all of the non-negotiables of worship and should build on the prior knowledge and learning of Whole School Worship. They should take into account the theme of value of the week and develop the child's spirituality at a level appropriate to them. These worships could also reflect upon significant local, national and world events.

- **Celebration worship**

Celebration of achievement linked with either Christian Values, special events or God's world. There will normally be two certificates, 1 celebrating pupil talents and one for school values.

- **Songs of Praise**

Songs linked with either Christian Values, special events or God's world.

- **Key Stage Worship**

Led by class teachers, these worships develop pupils understanding of 'God's Big Story' relating Bible stories to Christian Values and theology. The Big Frieze can also be referred to, to allow pupils to visualise where stories in the Bible fit together. These worships could also be reactive to significant local, national or world events

- **Vicar or other visitors**

These will aim to ensure that pupils get a variety of worship leaders and from different areas of expertise e.g. Charities, Foundations, Other Faith Members, Mayors Visits.

- **Year Group Led Worship with parents invited**

The purpose of these is to give each class a chance to share their understanding of Christian values (the emphasis being on the core values). These values should be linked with Christian stories and theology, or relating to other faiths if appropriate. Parents will be invited to these through an invite sent out at the beginning of the term.

- **Exceptional Learning Worship**

The purpose of these is to give each class or group of children the opportunity to show a piece of work they are particularly proud of and reflects the high standards of the school. Senior leaders and invited guests will be present.

The timing of each ELW a will be put on the worship planner in advance and will include all staff. The normal format will be as follows:

- class teacher to welcome and greet
- class teacher to introduce the themes and the focus on God's given talents and abilities
- 1-6 children per class present their exceptional work and explain the learning (unsupported by teachers)
- Each Class approximately 3- 5 mins (KS1 May be slightly longer)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> teacher leads reflection, guiding pupils to reflect on talents and abilities, and prayers
- Each child should get an opportunity within the year to present at one
- The exceptional learning worships must reflect high expectations through the children sharing their learning experiences and work with the audience.
- Staff should consider carefully how best to present the children's work so presentation skills display to engage the audience and also about the oral skills of the children presenting. The use of technology is encouraged to make the worship more accessible for the audience.