



St. James' Church of England Primary School

**'Building One Faith, One Family,
Our Future'**

Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed and updated by B. Scholfield and J. Wilton - September 2021
Approved by Governors- Autumn 2021
Reviewed in Autumn 2024 – B. Scholfield & M.Tindall
Review Date – Autumn 2027

Foundation, Vision and Intent

St James' Lower Darwen

Church of England Primary School



"Building One Faith, One Family, Our Future."

"We offer a holistic curriculum that champions our community and is aspirational."

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

through

ENRICHMENT

THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

SKATS

FORGIVENESS

COMPASSION

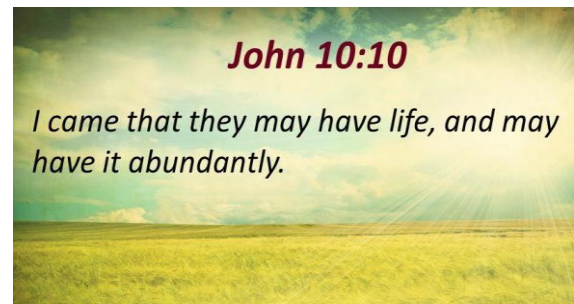
LOVE

TRUTH

JUSTICE

Jeremiah 29:11

John 10:10



We want our children to know that **God has a plan for them** that means **they live their best life possible**.

Each **policy** and procedure within school, alongside the ongoing **curriculum** delivery, our **SKATS** programme, **enrichment** and the **spiritual development** offered to our families through Worship, RE and our links with Church, work towards making this happen.

Foundation of the School

We are a Voluntary Aided Church of England School. Our Trust Deeds have set up our school to provide education within the framework of 'the principles and practices of the Established Church'.

Place of Worship in the Life of the School

We see Collective Worship as a means of maintaining our whole school Christian ethos where we seek to encourage the faith and educational journey of all our members in the light of the Good News of Jesus Christ. It gives us a means of celebrating and exploring the core Christian values which are of crucial importance to our school. We see worship as a vehicle to reinforce links between school, church and the community.

Our school foundation scriptures are:

'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full'.

John 10 v 10

And

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".

Jeremiah 29 v 11

These are the foundation on which our mission statement:

- Building one faith, one family, our future,

and our curriculum intent:

- We offer a holistic curriculum that champions our community and is aspirational,

are built.

Aims for Worship

To contribute to pupils' spiritual development

- Experience what worship is and how we can go about it.
- Experience how to use silence creatively, reflecting and meditating on important issues.
- Appreciate and celebrate all that is of value in God's creation.
- Explore important issues, life's big questions and responses to difficulties, e.g. suffering, loss, death and evil.
- Be encouraged to express their feelings.
- Strengthen their relationship with God

To introduce pupils to the worship of the Church of England

- Learn important and famous prayers of Christianity and the Anglican Church to take it with them into adult life.

To gain in knowledge and understanding of the Christian Faith

- Explore Christian beliefs about God.
- Learn about the importance of the Bible.
- Learn about the significance of Jesus.
- Share in Christian practice and Church life.
- Celebrate the Church year and selected Saints' days.
- Explore multi-cultural Christianity and participate in first-hand experiences surrounding this e.g. meeting visitors, visits to significant locations/places

To explore and share the beliefs of others

- Observe special celebrations from other faiths.
- Discover how worship in other faiths is carried out and respectfully make comparisons to the Christian faith
- Celebrate values and attitudes common to Christians and those from other faith communities.
- Experience stories from other faiths and discover their importance.
- Explore and communicate with people from other faiths with opportunities to discuss their real-life experiences surrounding this e.g. meeting visitors, visits to significant locations/places

To contribute to pupils' moral development

- Encourage the ability to reflect on social and moral issues and begin to develop own opinions surrounding these.
- Appreciate and accept the values and beliefs that people live by.
- Become more aware of and accept the needs of others.
- Understand their rights as children and discuss and explore British values.

To contribute to the general development of pupils

- Provide opportunities for the children to perform and develop their leadership skills.
- Develop their singing ability and appreciation of music.
- Develop ability to acknowledge, discuss and respect the opinions and thoughts of others.
- Build empathy towards others.

To celebrate and take note of the life of the school in the presence of God

- Celebrate work undertaken by pupils in all areas of the curriculum.
- Reinforce thoughtfulness and good behaviour.
- Build up the sense of community of the school.
- Develop and reflect on the core Christian values of the school.
- Share the achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community.
- Have opportunity to be involved in decision making within school and have their voice heard.

To look out to the wider world

- Take notes of events in the world and express joy or sorrow as appropriate.
- To explore current world events and develop opinions and responses to these.

- To consider how current world events and topics link to God's Big Story and Christian Values.
- To celebrate and give thanks for God's world.
- Build empathy towards others and explore how they can insight change/ make a difference.

Expectations of Pupils

It is intended that our worship programme will help to guide our children on their faith journey and develop their spiritual life.

We expect our children in school to live as a gospel-inspired, living community enhanced by our programme, including worship in St James' Church.

We expect our children to use their experiences of the world, their learning and their understanding of God's heart for his people, gained through time spent in worship, to be courageous advocates for others in their family, community and the wider world.

Organisation and Delivery

- An example of the programme for a half term can be found in Appendix 1 (kept in Collective Worship Planner). Into this planner will be inserted visits by church members, including our vicar, visiting speakers (when invited), and 'Special Acts of Worship' (Ash Wednesday etc). Also, classes may, at various times of the year, be asked to lead acts of worship. Records of Collective Worship are kept in the online padlets. These are shared on our school website. Children are regularly asked their opinion regarding Worship individually and at Pupil Voice level.
- A Pupil Voice Worship Group (Worship Warriors), often made up of the vicar, teaching staff and pupils meets regularly to monitor and plan Worship and to lead in spirituality days.
- The lunch time and afternoon prayer is chosen by individual teachers or pupils in that class.
- Our school prayer is used regularly and reflects our school vision. It was created by the Worship Warriors Pupil Voice Group.
- Parents will be invited to two weekly acts of worship and various acts of Collective Worship throughout the school year. We use a variety of aids to develop our Collective Worship, e.g. artefacts, drama, music, interactive whiteboard, poetry, pictures, prayer, pupils' work, radio broadcasts, readings, silence and videos. Music is played at the beginning and end of each act of worship and can be seen in Appendix 1. When changes to worship are necessary or suggested, children, parents and governors will be involved in the consultation process.
- Monitoring of Worship is done by the Worship lead in conjunction with the Pupil Voice Worship Team. Teachers record class worship and spiritual discussions on online padlets that are regularly reviewed and monitored as well as shared with parents and governors.

Relationship to Diocesan Policy

The provision that we make in worship at St. James' Church of England Primary School is in line with Blackburn Diocese policy.

Parents' Right of Withdrawal

In keeping with the Education Reform Act, 1988 – Religious Education and Collective Worship, we honour the parental right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. If a parent contacts the Head teacher regarding this, parental wishes will be accommodated.

Race Equality and Racial Harassment

Implicit in our policy for Collective Worship is a belief in race equality and everything will be done to promote this. We do not tolerate racial harassment. (Refer to School's Race Equality and Racial Harassment Policies).

SEND

The aims of the school are the same for all children. We therefore regard provision for the child with learning difficulties and the more able child as just one aspect of equality of opportunity and entitlement for all pupils (See SEN Policies).

Appendix 1



Worship Planner



Autumn 1 2025

Theme: Precious Stones and Celebrations

<p>Week 1</p> <p>Monday 1st September</p> <p>Focus: Precious Stones</p> <p>Worship Colour - Green</p> <p>EYFS Worship Big Bible Heroes</p> <p>EYFS Learning Focus It's Good to Say Thank You</p> <p>EYFS Story Let's Meet Jack Session 1 - The Creation Let's Meet Jack Session 1 - God Knows Me</p>	<p>SONG FOR THE WEEK</p> <p>Whole School entrance song (Not to sing): Who You Say I Am (Lyric Video) - Hillsong Worship Song to sing: My Hope Is In The Lord My Hope Is In The Lord</p> <p>Monday Church Worship – Welcome back by Rev. Cathy</p> <p>Tuesday Class Worship - Picture News - Make link to British Value</p> <p>Wednesday Class Worship- Share John 10:10 - discuss and remind pupils what one of our school scriptures means. What does it mean to them? How will our scripture help this year?</p> <p>Thursday Whole School Worship – Ruby - JB Rubies are one of the most precious stones on Earth. They're rare and are often given as gifts to show deep love. They're tough — only diamonds are harder. Proverbs 3:15 – <i>"She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her."</i> Proverbs 8:11 – <i>"For wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you could want is equal to it." "So what does that mean? What's even better than a ruby?" (A few might say "God" or "love" or "wisdom.") Say: "The Bible tells us that wisdom — knowing what's right, being kind, listening to God — is even more valuable than the most expensive jewel. And you? You are so precious to God. Every single one of you."</i></p> <p><i>Dear God, Thank you that you love me. Thank you that I am precious to you. Help me to grow in wisdom and kindness, and to shine bright, like a ruby. Amen.</i></p>
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