

Clitheroe

St. James' C.E. Primary School



# WORSHIP POLICY

Reviewed July 2023

St James' is a Church School where everyone is valued and upheld by Love, Hope, and Respect.



Our school forms a crucial part of our journey through life.

We will be **BOLD** on our journey together.

We will Believe  
We will be Open  
We will be Loving  
We will be Determined

*Be strong and courageous. The Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

JOSHUA 1: 9

# **WORSHIP AT CLITHEROE ST. JAMES' C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## Policy

The provision of collective worship conforms to Blackburn Diocesan Policy.

This policy represents the school's arrangements for Collective Worship as approved by the Governing Body in consultation with the Headteacher and staff.

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 deeds of the school.

## Ethos Statement

Recognising its historic foundation, St James' School will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England. St James' School aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. The school encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to ALL its pupils. At St James' we see each child as special and important to God. Collective Worship contributes to 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.

## A Definition of School Collective Worship

An Act of Worship takes place in the context of a gathering of some or all of the school community, which aims to foster the spiritual, moral and cultural development of those present.

It gives individual pupils, staff and visitors an opportunity to make a free response arising from their own religious and other convictions.

Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life and the governors see it as an essential part of the children's education. Worship at St James' aims to provide children and adults with an opportunity to worship God. At the same time, it celebrates diversity, while contributing towards a sense of cohesion, stability and shared values of the school, society and the wider world.

Through Collective Worship pupils are introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith AND are helped to explore them.

These 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 a source of knowledge about God and Jesus as a source of inspiration and guidance.
- The importance of prayer.
- The central symbols of Christianity.
- The cycle of the Church's year.

#### Aims of Worship at St James'

- (a) To enable pupils and staff to explore a variety of forms of Worship so that those with a religious commitment may have their experience of Worship broadened and deepened and, so that those without, may begin to feel something of what it means for others to Worship.
- (b) To enable the school community to participate in Worship by fostering a sense of wonder and awe at the beauty, mystery and power of the world they live in.
- (c) To enable pupils to use silence for reflection, meditation, contemplation and prayer.
- (d) To heighten pupil's awareness of questions relating to the ultimate mysteries of life and the beliefs held, and the commitments made by themselves and others in response to such questions.
- (e) To provide pupils with an experience of sharing which has meaning, value and purpose for the pupils as individuals, for the school and the wider community.
- (f) To provide the experience of and develop the sense of a caring community within the school and of being part of a wider community, including the parish of St James' Clitheroe.
- (g) To make explicit and provide time of celebration, praise and thanksgiving in personal, school and community life.
- (h) To contribute to the spiritual development of the pupils.

Collective Worship enables the whole school community to:

EXPLORE those questions which are important to everyone.

- A relationship with God, the teachings of the Bible, prayer, the value of truth and love.
- Our UNDERSTANDING of Christianity, of the Bible, of what it means to have faith, the faith of others, commitment and beliefs.
- What Worship is and what people do when they worship. What it means to put God at the heart of school life.
- Give opportunity to develop SPIRITUALITY, to think about who they are, their relationship with others/ with God AND the world in which we live.

ENCOUNTER a faith which is alive.

- Christianity in action. The nature of God as revealed in Jesus, creative silence, the awe and wonder of God and creation, a relationship with God. Worship is RELEVANT to the children and DISTINCTIVE in nature.

EXPERIENCE the joy of celebrating God's love.

- Enjoying Worship, Church life and Christian practice, God's concern for ALL people, stillness and reflection.
- CONTRIBUTING to and leading Worship.
- Being a part of the school family. Sharing achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community.
- Building up our understanding of and relationship with the school COMMUNITY (children, staff, parents), the wider community, and parish link

### Organisation of Worship

Worship is planned by the Worship Leader in conjunction with the Worship Group. The aims of the meetings are to discuss ideas and themes for worship and special services throughout the school year. All teaching staff and outside contributors receive copies of the plans for each half term. Copies are also held by the Worship Leader and the Headteacher.

### Weekly Plan

Monday: 9 a.m. Whole School in the Junior Hall

Tuesday: 10 a.m. Whole School in the Junior Hall

Wednesday: 10 a.m. Infants in the Infant Hall/ Juniors in the Junior Hall

Thursday: 10 a.m. Infants in the Infant Hall/ Juniors in the Junior Hall

Friday: 9 a.m. Whole School in the Junior Hall

### Church Links

We have very close links with St James' Church. The church has a Family Worker who spends part of her time at school. Each week worship is led by a member of St James Church. School staff and children attend services in Church for major festivals – Christmas, Easter, Harvest and the End of Year. Parents, church members and friends are invited to join the school on these occasions.

### Themes for Worship

There is a bank of materials that have been put together over a number of years. This is used, added to and developed when the rota for each term is put together.

### Resources

There is a bank of resources that have been put together over a number of years. These are updated as appropriate and are located in the Worship Leader's classroom. The Worship Leader is able to bid for an amount of money each year to add to the school's worship resources, as required.

### Evaluation

Each week, one class evaluates the worship for the school for that week. A form is filled in and is placed in the School Worship Evaluation File. Also, the Pupil Worship Group will discuss and evaluate worship as part of their role. Ideas and thoughts about ways of improving worship are also sought from staff.

### Provision for Withdrawal

Parents may, if they wish, withdraw their children from Collective Worship.

HOWEVER, as this is a Church School, the governors would expect that parents in choosing St James' are thereby committing their children to taking a full part in the Worship of the school.

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 parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply.

## Legal Requirements

The legal requirements for Collective Worship in our school

### (a) Legal Basis

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.

### (b) Daily Worship

Daily Collective Worship has to be 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 or small groups, but not faith groups. Worship may take place at any point in the school day.

### (c) Worship in Church

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

### (d) Parental rights of withdrawal

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship.

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.

### (e) Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally 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 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.

## Responsibility for Worship Policy

This policy is the responsibility of the Worship Leader in conjunction with the Headteacher.