



## St Peter's CE Primary School



### Collective Worship Policy



#### Our Christian Vision and Values

1 John 3:18 Dear Children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth

Our Christian values, which derive from the life and teaching of Jesus, underpin every aspect of school life at St. Peter's. These core values are 'Hope, Honesty and Compassion' and our branch values 'Community, Love and Respect' are at the core of everything we do to ensure our children believe in themselves and develop strong relationships with others.

Because we have **hope**, we believe that problems can be solved, and difficult situations can be improved; we look for potential in every child.

*But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles: They will run and not grow weary: they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31*

By being **honest**, we can trust each other; we try to be honest even when we find it difficult.

*For we aim at what is honourable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man. 2 Corinthians 8:21*

We show **compassion** to each other and to people outside of our school who need our help. This makes our school and the world around us a better place.

*Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Peter 3:8*

We have a sense of belonging to our St. Peter's family and to the wider **community**; we embrace opportunities to learn about and respect other people and help them in any way we can.

*I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. 1 Corinthians 1:10*

Because we have **love**, we are able to respect, appreciate and be patient with others.

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 1 Corinthians 13:4-5*

We show **respect** to those in our community; we use our manners to show we appreciate other people and celebrate the differences between us.

Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them. Matthew 7:12

Through our Christian values, we strive to enrich the lives of our worshipping community and grow in confidence and self-esteem. St. Peter's is a place where we learn in order to love God, one another and ourselves. A rich and varied curriculum enables us to discover the wonders of God's creation, the worth of other people and allows our children to flourish in a happy, safe environment.



## **Collective Worship at St Peter's C.E. Primary School**

Schools are required by law to have a daily act of collective worship that is wholly or mainly of Christian character. It is a spiritual occasion, a time for pupils and staff to contemplate and reflect upon the meaning and mystery of life. We understand worship to be a special act or occasion which enables pupils to learn about Jesus Christ and to praise God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in collective worship. We conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. Education at St Peter's is rooted in the belief that HOPE, HONESTY and COMPASSION must come first in all we do. Each child has the right to develop morally, spiritually, academically and physically to his/her full potential and will do so, given the right educational context.

### **AIMS AND PURPOSE**

The aims and purposes of collective worship at St Peter's are to be inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

- Invitational, offering everyone the opportunity to engage in the act of worship, whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Inspiring and creative, impacting the whole community and motivating them into courageous advocacy and action.
- Inclusive, where all are included, have a voice and are listened to.
- A valued part of the culture of the school, breathing life into every aspect of the school day.




### **ORGANISATION AND DELIVERY**

As a church school we follow the Heartsmart approach to deliver collective worship. "Big Questions" are planned for to ensure we offer opportunities for pupils to reflect and grow spiritually. Records of collective worship are kept in class floor books and pupil work produced during class worship is displayed in class reflection areas and on our whole-school reflection display.

Singing assembly occurs weekly, and hymns are carefully selected in advance with the Music teacher to ensure pupil participation and quality.

Pupil Ambassadors (Ethos Group) are engaged in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in order to improve practice. Children use prayer to reflect on our school values and communicate with God as part of our school community.

Pupils recognise that worship provides meaningful opportunities to contribute to their spiritual development. We use the 'Windows, Mirrors, Doors' strategy designed by Liz Mills to broaden and deepen understanding about spiritual learning during collective worship.

Windows	Mirrors	Doors
		
<i>I look out onto the world. I think and ask questions about it's wonders and things that need to change.</i>	<i>I reflect alone and with others so that I can see things more clearly. I ask important questions to help me grow from my own responses and those of others.</i>	<i>I look through and act in a purposeful way as I make my choices. I engage in social action and act as a courageous advocate for change.</i>



### **COURAGEOUS ADVOCATES**

As a school, the children love to learn about the courageous advocates out in the world who are seeking to make changes and improve the lives of others. Our Ethos Group are passionate in making a change and firmly believe 'they can change the world'. Pupils have ownership of projects they would like to bring about change and some of these involve: Walk for Ukraine and Harvest (raising money for Manna House). We are fortunate at St. Peter's to also have a School Council and Mental Health Champions. All our 'courageous advocates' work tirelessly for a better world for themselves and others.

### **PRAYER AND LITURGY**

Prayer, worship and liturgical celebration are central to our school day. Prayer is encouraged in a variety of methods; private individual prayer, group prayer, and whole school prayer.

Each child takes part in a daily act of worship (5-10 minutes) and formal prayers are used to open and close the school day sessions. The children also plan and lead acts of worship within each of their classes. Collective Worship across every class uses the same structure. We gather, using prayers, actions, or music. Then, we listen to scripture, readings and / or poems. After that, we respond by doing something or saying a prayer together. Finally, we go forth by reflecting on the scripture and taking this forward into our work throughout the day. It is wonderful to see the children excited, enthusiastic and deepening their faith through prayer and liturgy.

### **RIGHT TO WITHDRAW**

Parents have the right, to withdraw their child from RE lessons and Collective Worship. However, the school asks that parents contact the Head teacher to discuss any concerns about the policy, provision and practice of religious education and seek to arrive at an accommodation.