

"ASPIRE, ACHIEVE, BELIEVE"

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

The Academy at St. James

Do to others as you would have them do to you - Luke 6:31

Values statement

Believe in yourself

Mark 9:23 Jesus said, "Everything is possible for those who believe."

Achieve our Dreams

Proverbs 16:3 "Commit to the Lord and He will establish your dreams."

Aspire to do our best

2 Corinthians 5:9 "We aspire to please him in all that we do."

Our School is a community and our core values represent the way we want each member of that community to treat one another.

We will treat each other with:

- Tolerance
- Respect
- Fairness and justice
- Empathy
- Honesty

We expect children and adults to:

- Accept personal responsibility for their actions
- Recognise and value the unique contribution each individual in our community makes
- Try to understand the point of view of others
- Cooperate with others and show them consideration
- Take care of each other and the property and possessions of all.



Academy at St James

Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

At the Academy at St James we are committed to valuing and nurturing each child as an individual who will achieve their best and develop an enthusiasm for lifelong learning. Our vision is for the children in our school to grow into responsible, caring and fulfilled adults who actively and positively contribute to the society in which they live. We are committed to raising standards, values and self-esteem for all those involved with our school through cultivating a secure, yet exciting environment that is positive, supportive, stimulating and enriching.

As a Church of England Primary Academy, we see our Collective Worship as a central part of school life. Our Collective Worship policy fulfils the statutory requirements common to all schools according to the 1988 Education Reform Act (and consolidated in the 1996 Education Act). It also fulfils the Diocesan requirements, which states that worship will be Christian in content with an Anglican emphasis.

Aims

In line with DfES circular 1/94, our aims of collective worship are

- to worship God
- to consider spiritual and moral issues and explore our own beliefs
- to invite participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered, and
- to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes

Collective Worship provides a daily opportunity:

- to worship God
- for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- to reflect on our Academy's shared Christian values
- to develop a community spirit, shared ethos and sense of belonging
- to consider spiritual and moral issues
- to experience and develop a vocabulary of worship (prayer, sacred songs, praise, story, music, reflection, silence etc.)
- to develop Biblical knowledge
- to develop knowledge of the festivals and traditions of the Church of England
- to develop knowledge of the festivals and traditions of other major world faiths

Collective Worship routines

A calendar of collective worship themes is organised by the Headteacher for each school year. As part of this process, the Headteacher meets with the children from across the school to share their ideas and input when creating the annual plan.

Teachers are asked to prepare and present collective worship in turn. The themes are drawn from:

- The Church's year
- Bible stories and important Biblical characters and themes
- Christian values of love, truth, forgiveness, service, endurance and courage
- British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths

- Festivals of other important worshipping communities; major World religions; Christian, Buddhist, Islamic, Sikh, Hindu and Jewish
- Significant world figures from the Christian faith e.g. Martin Luther King
- Reflections on key ideas

Collective worship is carefully planned and includes:

- Opened with sharing the peace
- A focus Bible verse or inspirational quotation for the week
- Music
- A hymn or spiritual song. Hymns are chosen to include:
 - those designed for children with simple theology
 - traditional hymns from the Anglican tradition; and
 - choruses / worship songs which promote spirituality and devotion
- A story / drama / activity
- Time for reflection on the message of the collective worship
- The lighting of a candle and the use of words to explain the presence of the Holy Spirit during collective worship, 'Christians believe that Jesus is the light of the world. We light this candle to remind us that the Holy Spirit is with us in all that we do.'
- Prayers
 - o The Lord's Prayer and the Grace are taught to children as well as responses from the Anglican Service Book
 - o Children are encouraged to offer their own prayers

When each class leaves their classroom, they bring a lit candle which they walk through school with. The candles are placed together at the front of the hall and visually represent the 'coming together' of the school community.

Whole School Worship

These celebrations are planned to celebrate the major Christian festivals: Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost as well as national days e.g. Remembrance and Holocaust Day. Care is taken to create a sense of occasion for our Worship.

Worship Assemblies include:

- Whole school invitation (extended to all children and adults in school including visitors)
- An altar, lighted candles, special symbols (crucifix, poppy wreath, nativity advent wreath, palm crosses, paschal candles etc.)
- Hymns and prayers of worship
- Music and reflection

R.E. Council

The school has an R.E. Council comprising of children from years 1 to 6. Their purpose is to review how collective worship is delivered in school, to visit other schools to share in their practice and to bring back their observations and share best practice. The council are responsible for the delivery of two sessions of collective worship each half term. In recent terms, Council-led workshops have included Ascension, Christingle, Interfaith Week and how those with Christian and non-Christian faith in school mark Christmas. The R.E. Council are responsible for collecting ideas during class worship, sharing school developments in Collective Worship and R.E. and maintaining a display board in a prominent position in the school.

Whole school prayers

The R.E. Council helped to compose our new school lunchtime and end of day prayers. After collecting prayer ideas from their class peers, the R.E. Council, Co-ordinator and Rev. Harry edited and published the prayers, which reflect our school values and ways of being. They are read daily throughout school and the children have learnt to recite them.




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Lunchtime Prayer

O Lord,
Bless our food before we eat and
bless those around us.
Help us to respect and care for
those, who have made our
meals.
We thank you for this day and
our food. We trust you in
everything you do.
Amen











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End of day Prayer

Dear Lord,
Thank you for helping us in our
journey to become expert
learners.
Help us to have a peaceful
evening and respect those in our
wider community.
Give us the strength to be
ourselves always.
Amen



Content of collective worship

Each act of collective worship includes:-

- sacred song or hymn led by the worship choir
- story from the Bible (or other faith) with some teaching and reflection linked to the half term's theme
- a time to reflect on what this means for me
- an invitation to prayer
- retiring music linked to the theme

Each half term

- centres on our Academy's shared Christian value
- covers major Christians festivals including Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost
- covers important religious festivals from other major faiths; Eid, Holi, Hanukkah, Chinese New Year
- covers other important commemorations including, Remembrance, Holocaust Memorial Day, Martin Luther-King day

Liturgy

Collective worship involves the use of Church of England liturgy

- Use of the Lord's Prayer in its traditional version

*Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.*

- Welcome and dismissal

*The Lord is here
His Spirit is with us*

*Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ - amen*

Annual opportunity to celebrate the eucharist led by the local incumbent.

Inclusion and withdrawal

Collective worship is central to the life of the school. However, parents/carers do have a legal right to withdraw their children from all or part of worship. Before making the decision to exercise that right parents /carers are encouraged to discuss the issues with the Head of School.

Staff have asserted their ability to support the Christian ethos of the school at interview; it is hoped that they are happy to accept the invitation to lead worship when necessary and to worship with the school community.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school

Appendix

Assembly Rota Autumn Term

AUTUMN 1 – COMMUNITY	MUSIC
Are all communities the same? Moses in the bulrushes. Two communities separated (Egyptians and Israelites) Two women rescue the Hebrew baby Miriam and the Egyptian princess. Exodus 1&2	Together – Songs for Every assembly
What does our community look like? Moses recognises his membership of the Israelite community and experiences God's presence in the burning bush. Receives his commission to rescue the people. Exodus 3&4	Bring it all to me
What can we do for our community? The plagues persuade Pharaoh to let the people go. Moses leads them through the Red Sea. Exodus 5	
What makes a good community? Moses given the ten commandments – communities need rules to live by. Exodus 20	The school rule song – Songs for every assembly
How do our differences make our community stronger? Joshua became a new leader and sent spies into the promised land Rahab helps them escape from Jericho. Joshua 2	
How can one individual impact on the community? Joshua and the Battle of Jericho. Joshua 6	

AUTUMN 2 PEACE	MUSIC
When is it peaceful? Jesus calms the storm. Peace comes from knowing God is in control.	
What is peace? The Fruits of the Spirit – Galatians 5 – 22,23 Peace is a gift from God.	
What are the ingredients for a peaceful school? Philippians 4:4-7, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."	Song of Blessing
Peace maker or Peace breaker? Psalm 23 – Even in difficult times God's presence can bring peace.	The lord's my shepherd – Stuart Townsend

What is peaceful problem solving? Matthew 18 v 15-18 What does the bible say you should do when you fall out with someone?	
What does faith say about Peace? Advent – Four Sundays leading up to Christmas preparing for Jesus coming into the world (the Prince of Peace, Emmanuel God with Us)	Jesus Name above all names.
Can there be peace in times of war? The story of the shepherds visited by the angels who say “Do not be afraid!” and “Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on Earth” Link to World War I Christmas football match.	While Shepherds Watched Silent Night

Worship Rota Spring Term

SPRING 1 – RESEPECT	MUSIC
How do I look after myself?	
How do I respect my belongings and family?	
How do I respect my school?	
How do I respect the environment? (ECO SCHOOLS)	
What do faiths say about respect?	
Is respect earned or given? (Oracy)	

SPRING 2 – FORGIVENESS	MUSIC
When do we say sorry? The story of Zaccheaus	He’s got the whole world in his hands
What does saying sorry mean? When it is hard to say sorry? The Women who washed the feet of Jesus	
What does forgiveness mean? Prodigal Son	
What does faith say about forgiveness? Peter is sorry for denying Jesus	
What role does justice play in forgiveness? The Beatitudes. Blessed are those who are hungry and thirsty	
Is forgiveness conditional? Crime & punishment Jesus forgives the man on the cross	

Assembly Rota Summer Term

SUMMER 1 – COURAGE	MUSIC
What is courage? David and Goliath	Keep your Head up- Ben Howard
How do stories about faith help us to have courage?	
What does courage look like?	
Where does courage come from?	
Can having courage be foolish?	
How does change require courage?	
Theme -	Music

Who cares for me?	
How am I trusted by others?	
Who can I trust?	
What is trust?	
How can I have trust in myself?	
How do we trust what we can not see?	
How is trust shown through having faith?	
Is Trust earned or given?	

SUMMER 2 – TRUST Bible Story	MUSIC
Who cares for me? Pentecost Holy Spirit the comforter. Birth of the church. How do Churches care for each other and trust each other?	The Lord's my shepherd (Stuart Townend)
How am I trusted by others? Story of the paralysed man through the roof – friend trusted Jesus to heal him.	Our god is a Great Big God
Who can I trust? Jesus calms the storm – Did the disciples trust Jesus? Why were they afraid when He was with them?	Lighthouse song (Rend Collective)
What is trust? Noah – trusted God and so built the ark.	Who built the Ark? Arky, arky song
How can I have trust in myself? Mary – trusted God in the Magnificat. Trusted God throughout Jesus' life to the crucifixion.	Blessed be the name of the Lord (Matt Redman)
How do we trust what we cannot see? Centurion's servant – he trusted that Jesus had the authority to heal	Holding onto the Rock (Bring it all to me)
How is trust shown through having faith? Abraham and Isaac – trusted God to provide an alternative for the sacrifice.	How we need you (Bring it all to me)

Appendix 2

Hymns

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StVHybGlxpY> BBC Come and Praise book 1

Autumn 1 - community

1. Brother sister let me serve you
2. Be still for the presence of the Lord is moving in this place
3. Communion Song (Behold the Lamb – Stuart Townsend - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alvX9Fa53-o>)
4. Sharing bread (Harvest)
5. We will remember the soldiers once more (Remembrance)

Autumn 2 - peace

1. Peace, perfect peace
2. Spirit of peace
3. Light of the world (Advent)

spring 1- Respect

1. This is my song, oh God of all the nations (Finlandia - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6OxSYe8_e4Y)

Spring 2- Forgiveness

1. See what a morning (Easter – Stuart Townend <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xM-fpXayUg>)
2. From heaven you came helpless babe (Servant King – Easter)

summer 1- Courage

1. What the Lord has done in me (Hillsong - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4njuR8l3Ck>)
2. In Christ Alone (Stuart Townend - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCeSOY5tisI>)

Summer 2 - Trust

3. The Lord's my shepherd (Stuart Townsend - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-elQQayhpak>)
4. The apostles' creed (I believe in God the father - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FtUNQpu2b7Q>)

Appendix 3

<https://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk> find links here to secular and religious stories to support the Academy's values.

<https://www.assemblies.org.uk> useful search facility to find stories on different themes.