

Collective worship at St John's

The intention of our Collective Worship

Everyday we gather as a school to worship together. This is at the beginning of the day and helps to settle everyone ready for a day of learning. Collective worship follows the structure of gather, engage, respond and send and the theme differs from day to day.

It is our intention to offer Collective Worship that meets the requirements of the Statutory Collective Worship and gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection, without compulsion.
- To appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language
- To appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate
- Engage in an act of community
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect for other members of the school community and beyond.
- Share each other's joys and challenges

Format of worship

Gather- as we gather for worship everyone is encouraged to join in with a song or simply listen to the music. A candle is lit by the leader or a child and everyone is welcomed to worship by answering to a statement as displayed in the hall. During this ritual, if the cloth needs changing then it is done by children as they walk into worship. A slide presenting why are we here? With a question for the children to ponder will display the theme of the worship. This can then be revisited at the end of the day in collect and reflect.

Engaging-This is the main part of the act of worship and will fit within the theme for worship. This is the opportunity to engage with the Bible, Christian teaching and of course God. This can be done in a range of ways including reading stories, watching videos or listening and learning hymns.

Responding- This is time for deep thought and a chance to respond about what we have encountered. The opportunity to worship God(pray) should be clearly and carefully offered, encouraging and inviting but never compelling. Using the phrase "We will now say a prayer and if you would like to make this prayer yours please join me by saying amen,"

Sending- The ending of worship is purposeful and everyone leaves to do differently after what they have encountered. The candle is extinguished after the words of sending (see display in hall) and children leave singing a song of worship.

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Songs and hymns

A collection of songs and hymns are collated on our school website for everyone to access. This encourages children and families to listen to these songs at home if they wish.

Themes and weekly Rota

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole school Bible worship led by HT to develop a broad understanding of 'The Biggest Story'	Whole School Christian Scripture Based upon the liturgical year	Class worship Topical issues using Picture News led by class teacher	Whole school Worship through song often based upon the liturgical year	Whole School Celebration of our Christian vision and values including one of our set bible stories

Collect and reflect

As the school day draws to a close, children are gathered together in class for collect and reflect. This is a time to be still reflect. This is done in a variety of ways across the school including; gathering around a candle and discussing feelings of the day, returning to the question of collective worship or even having silence and stillness for prayer or reflection. This ensures that everyone finishes the day with calm and purpose.

Useful resources and website links

<https://jumpingfishpublications.co.uk/>

<https://www.rdbe.org.uk/page/?title=Year+by+Year+Planning+for+Collective+Worship&pid=47> A good 3 year whole plan

<https://winchester.anglican.org/education-schools/resources-for-schools/guided-reflections/> A good selection of planning based on themes

<https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/education-schools/collective-worship/> A good selection of planning for liturgy times of year

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