St Peter's Brafferton C of E (VA) Primary School *Let your light shine!*

At St Peter's Brafferton, we are a nurturing community where every person can **flourish.** We aspire to be the best in all we do, promoting **lifelong learners** who are curious, compassionate, and courageous. We **value** every person and every opportunity to **'let our light shine'**.

> *"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*
> — Matthew 5:16

Collective Worship policy

Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of Truth, Respect, Compassion and Friendship and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and directors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

What is Collective Worship?
Legislation requires schools, including Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools, to conduct daily acts of Collective Worship. However, the legislation does not define what is meant by the term 'Collective Worship'.

> "… Worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to 'collective worship' rather than 'corporate worship'. (DfE Circular 1/94 para 57)

Corporate worship assumes a shared set of beliefs and values, i.e. a worshipping congregation meeting on a Sunday, where the worship is confessional and evangelistic (to spread the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness).

Collective worship, in recognising the collectivity of all participants, can make no such assumption that all have the same beliefs and values.

Collective Worship should be:

> "Appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes." (DfE Circular 1/94 p.22)

Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:
• Engage in an act of community

• Express praise and thanksgiving to God
• Be still and reflect
• Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
• Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
• Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
• Affirm Christian values and attitudes
• Share each other's joys and challenges
• Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

Scope
This policy is written for all Governors, staff, parents and pupils.

Aims

- To heighten children's awareness of God, their relationship to him and a sense of life's mysteries.
- To encourage a search for the truth based on reason, evidence, experience and revelation.
- To provide opportunities for children to be still, quiet, reflective and take part in prayer.
- To encourage a feeling of togetherness, promoting a sense of shared standards and values.
- To encourage appreciation of themselves and others, exploring a wider range of emotions and feelings.
- To appreciate the ritual, symbolism and language used to express feelings and faith, with particular reference to the Christian faith and Anglican tradition.
- To explore and appreciate a variety of forms of worship.
- To appreciate the place of worship in local, national, cultural and social life.
- To raise awareness of the diversity within different societies and cultures.
- To celebrate achievements, special occasions, difference and diversity within the school and wider community.
- To encourage the development of positive relationships within school

In line with the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that collective worship

a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
b) Enables all pupils and adults 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, the Eucharist.
c) Helps pupils and adults 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.
d) Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

Implementation

Collective Worship themes will be planned and shared by the Headteacher. These are evaluated annually. Worship is planned to link to Christian Values, and cover key Anglican festivals and traditions through the year, key festivals representing British life and culture, as well as those from other Religions and cultures, and are flexible to allow for inclusion of local, National and Global events of significance and the needs of our local community.

Worship at St Peter's will incorporate the central attributes of collective worship in a Church School and is planned, recorded and evaluated following the structure of '*Gathering, Engaging, Responding, Sending*' (see SIAMS evaluation schedule). Worship is regularly planned and led by pupils and always involves them.

Worship at St Peter's encourage pupils to think, ask questions and reflect on what it means to be human and a Christian and allows pupils to explore their own beliefs and to understand the beliefs and values of others. It allows pupils to recognise other faiths and helps pupils to learn about their beliefs and traditions. It is a time for personal reflection through prayer, silence or meditation.

Worship takes place in our school hall, classrooms, outside or in our local church, St Peter's.

Staff leading worship will receive regular professional development and training on how to deliver effective worship through support from the Diocese of York Education Adviser and within the school's internal CPD programme.

Worship is evaluated regularly through discussion with pupils, staff, governors, parents and carers.

Ethos

St Peter's Brafferton CE (VA) Primary School is committed to putting our Christian vision into action and creating an inclusive culture where all adults working and all pupils learning in school feel valued and able to be involved in a daily act of worship. This policy is intended to outline the principles for Collective Worship which in turn will benefit our pupils our school and our community and will contribute positively in reaching our shared Christian Vision

<u>Guidelines for Collective Worship</u>

Monday: Whole school worship, led by the Headteacher
Tuesday: Whole school worship, led by the Curate from St Peter's church, Brafferton
Wednesday: Whole school Worship led by class teacher
Thursday: Whole school Worship led by class teacher or the children
Friday: Celebration Worship led by the Headteacher and shared with parents, carers and families

- Music will be played to lead in and out of collective worship.

- Children and adults will be welcomed to Worship, and it may be introduced or closed with the words “Grace, Mercy and Peace from God the Father be with you.” The children and adults will be invited to respond with “And also with you.”
- A candle will be lit as a visual focus for prayer and reflection.
- Worship may be enhanced through the use of music (entering/leaving) and video, the use of artefacts, including religious artefacts such as a Bible, our school candle, the use of paired/group talk techniques, varying styles of delivery, drama, readings from the Bible or other religious text, poem, quotation, the use of silence, use of candle or other focus for prayer/reflection.

Our Christian values which support this policy, and our ethos are:
Community , Compassion, Truth , Trust , Friendship , Endurance

Monitoring

Monitoring will be carried out on a regular basis by Head teacher. The foundation governors and “Vision and Values in Action” working group have a key role in this process to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of a high quality. One of the foundation governors will attend worship at least once each term and complete an evaluation form. This is part of the ongoing programme of governor monitoring.

Right of withdrawal

In accordance with Section 9 of the 1988 Education reform Act parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or any part of Collective Worship. The Headteacher will be happy to discuss this with parents as appropriate.

Monitored by: FGB
Date adopted: Sept 2025
Next review: Sept 2027
Date of next review: 2 years