

St. David's C of E Primary School

Enquiring minds, caring hearts, creative hands



Collective Worship Policy 2022

Headteacher/ school staff signature	<i>Jenny Walker</i>
Governor signature	<i>Yvonne Webster</i>
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Date for review	January 2025

*At St David's we have our vision at the core of everything we do for pupils and for all staff members;
Our school's Christian foundation guides, challenges and inspires every child to reach their full
potential as they become life-long learners and confident citizens, equipped to lead and serve.*

As a school we look to the teachings of the Bible to underpin our ethos:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength; and your neighbour as yourself.

Mark 12:30-31

Introduction

St. David's C of E Primary School is an academy that enjoys close links with the local Anglican Church. It is the only primary school in the town, so it strives to meet the needs of both the sacred and secular elements of society. The daily act of collective worship has always received strong support within the school community as it seeks to reflect these needs and to raise the children's sights to God, however they perceive Him to be. Through collective worship we aim to state the values of a Church school in a largely secular society in such a way that all participants are encouraged to reflect upon the values that surround them, incorporating the best of these values into their own lives.

Our school motto is 'enquiring minds, caring hearts, creative hands', which is at the heart of everything we do. Our school motto is supported by our Christian values. Our core values of compassion, perseverance and respect are taught alongside the values of courage, forgiveness, friendship, hope, justice, service, thankfulness, trust and truthfulness. The school motto, combined with the Christian values, will provide a strong basis from which the children will develop into responsible, thoughtful, active members of society.

The governing body have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

In **St David's** worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision, which states that, 'Our school's Christian foundation guides, challenges and inspires every child to reach their full potential as they become lifelong learners and confident citizens, equipped to lead and serve'. It is underpinned by the Biblical verse : 1 Corinthians 3:11 "...no-one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ'. Collective worship is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship takes account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

However, in **St David's** the purpose of collective worship will be to lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

"Worship in (C of E) schools promotes theological and Religious Literacy and liberates participants to an imagining of a different order of justice, mercy and hope"¹

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (and other faiths') calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually. Collective Worship in our school is invitational, inspirational and inclusive.

Aims and Guiding Principles

*Collective worship in **St David's** aims to:*

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults' in their spiritual growth
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Provide an opportunity to experience the Eucharist (Holy Communion) through an agreed service or experience (agreed with the local incumbent and the Diocese of Gloucester)
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Aims of worship

- To be invitational to help participants to develop an awareness of the presence of God in everyday life.
- To be inspirational in providing the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual, social, cultural and moral issues and to explore and develop their own beliefs.
- To be inclusive in developing pupils' understanding of a diverse range of values and embed these into their daily lives.
- To be inclusive by developing community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.
- To be inspirational in providing opportunities to share and reflect upon the achievements of participants.

Elements of worship

Exposition and story - this aims to impart information and values, and to enable pupils to learn from the example and experience of others; the Bible being the most important resource.

Singing - hymns and songs generally illustrate the theme of the assembly, and are chosen to be sung and understood by as many of the participants as possible. They are well chosen and follow the guidance, where possible, from the latest Church of England publication.

Drama - this enables a theme to be brought to life and to form a more lasting impression on the participants.

Prayer - prayers are an opportunity to reflect upon the theme of the act of worship and to consider matters of importance to daily living.

Meditation - a short time is often set aside, often accompanied by a candle and some quiet music, in which participants can reflect upon what they have experienced during the time of worship.

Reflection Stations – can be found in various places in school; these encourage children to reflect on the current theme on which the school is focussing..

Legal aspects of worship at St. David's C of E Primary School

1. The nature of collective worship is controlled by the governors, after consulting with the Headteacher, and in accordance with the Trust Deed. This means that it includes elements of Anglican worship such as developing an understanding of The Trinity. Governors have agreed that worship shall:-
 - a) be of a broadly Christian nature, with the majority of acts of worship following a Christian direction;

- b) have elements of Anglican worship incorporated, notably the Lord's Prayer. Church services follow a broadly Anglican character;
 - c) on occasions make reference to other faiths in a positive way.
2. Worship is provided for all pupils each school day.
 3. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. They are invited to discuss this with the Headteacher.
 4. Staff have the right to withdraw from acts of worship, but where worship is central to the ethos of the school, as it is at St. David's, they would be expected to attend.

Weekly collective worship timetable

Monday	Whole school, led by the Headteacher.
Tuesday	Infants or Juniors, led by teachers or class based worship.
Wednesday	Whole school, led by the rector or a member of the church team, This takes place on a weekly basis. On occasions when the Church aren't in, teacher's provide collective worship opportunities within their classrooms.
Thursday	Whole school, led by the "Open the Book" team.
Friday	Whole school, focus on Celebrating achievements, led by senior teachers.

The children are given opportunities to plan and lead collective worship supported by the school's worship team.

The school enjoys strong links with the Church community with the Rector and the Open the Book team supporting school Collective Worship on a weekly or bi-weekly basis.

Planning and recording worship

The Monday collective worship session, led by the Headteacher, follows the values in focus. The values, linked to the school vision, are taught in a three year cycle (see Appendix 1). Teachers also teach the values through other areas of the curriculum, which are delivered on a termly basis and in line with 3 year cycle.

The church team's collective worship session also follow a termly theme on a 3 year cycle (see Appendix 1), but some individual sessions are linked into the church's themes at family services and to dates in the Church's calendar.

Other weekly collective worship sessions are planned in accordance with local, national or global events, events in the Church calendar, other faith events or, in the case of some Tuesday assemblies, as a reflection of class work.

The co-ordinator for Collective Worship keeps up to date with relevant guidance for Collective Worship and

Resources for collective worship

The school follows a combination of resources, some produced by the Gloucester Diocese. A range of Worship books and materials are kept in the staffroom and additional resources are available from the rector and the Headteacher.

Each classroom has a worship box which contains a Bible, prayer book, candle, holding cross and other resources to support class collective worship and reflection.

The school has developed a Reflection garden which is used as a space for meditation, reflection and for class collective worship.

Evaluation and review of collective worship

Collective worship will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed throughout the year by the R.E. and/or Collective Worship subject leader, teachers, children, Governors, including the Ethos Committee, children and other participants.

The school's Collective Worship policy will be reviewed every three years.

Church services

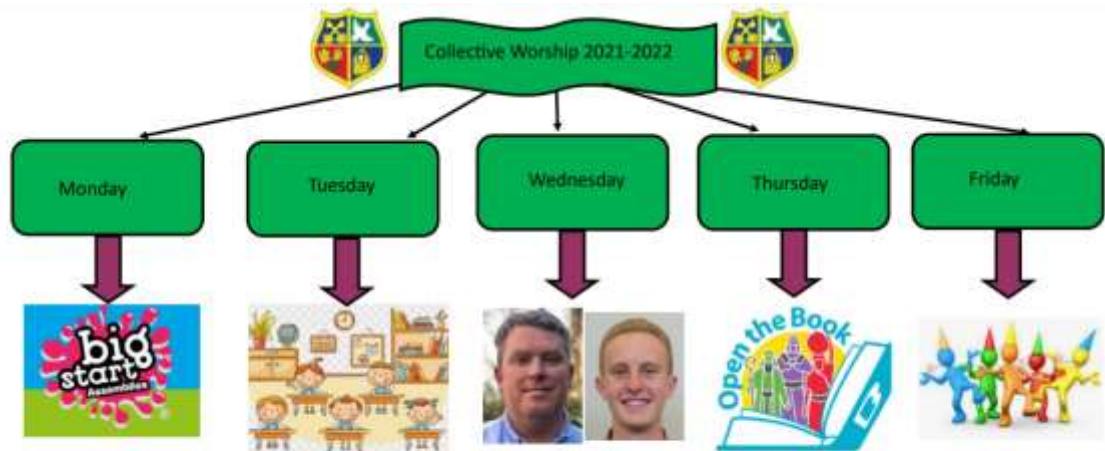
Services for children, staff, parents and friends are held at various times of the year which can include the following :

- Harvest festival
- Advent
- Christmas
- Easter
- End of school year

Conclusion

The daily act of worship is a central element of school life at St. David's. It emphasises respect, sincerity and openness. It provides an opportunity to share and develop beliefs, both personal and communal. Through careful planning and sensitive presentation we aim to bring out the very best in the human spirit that is pleasing to our community and pleasing to God.

Appendix



Enquiring Minds, Caring Hearts, Creative Hands.

Autumn Values Focus:

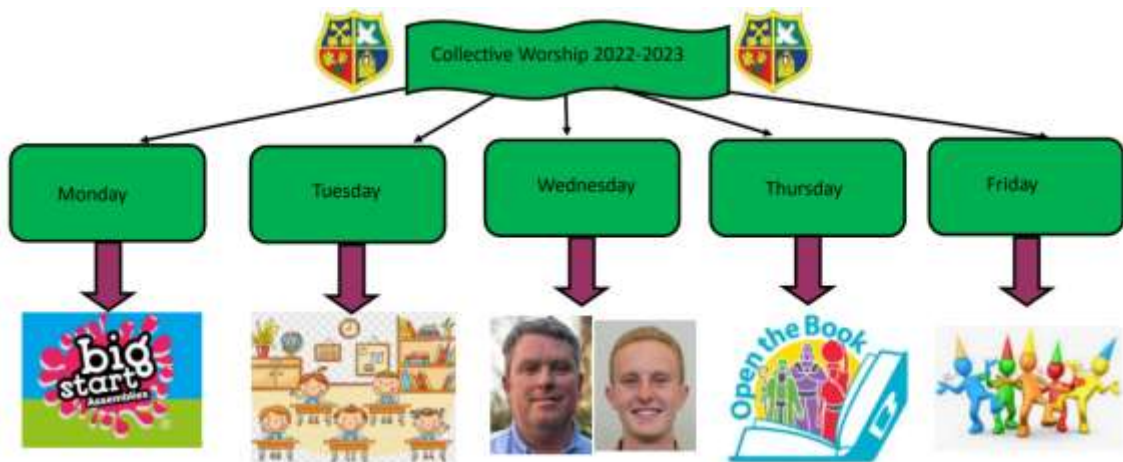
- Community
- Thankfulness
- Forgiveness
- Courage
- Generosity
- Repentance
- Responsibility
- Respect

Spring Values Focus:

- Generosity
- Respect
- Courage
- Thankfulness
- Trust
- Sacrifice

Summer Values Focus:

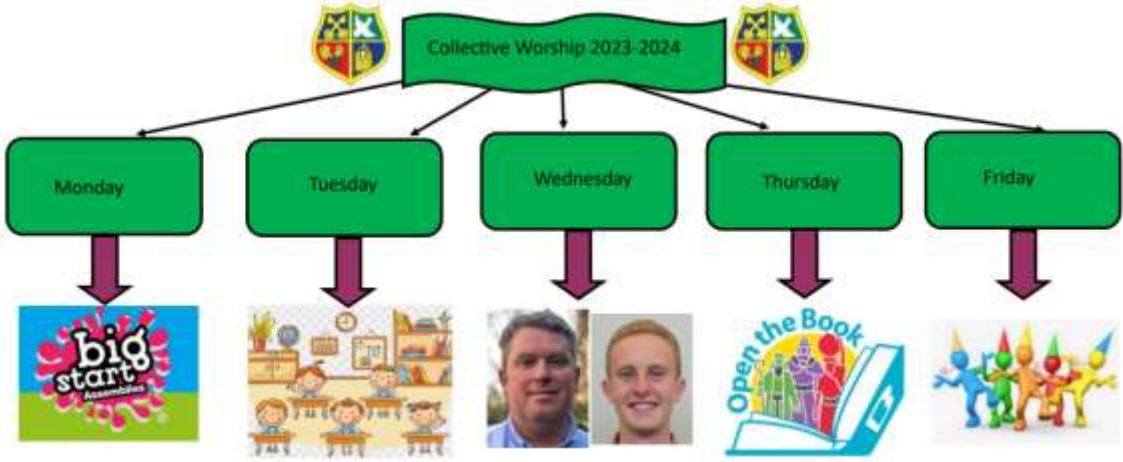
- Trust
- Courage
- Truthfulness
- Justice
- Community
- Thankfulness
- Integrity
- Sacrifice



Enquiring Minds, Caring Hearts, Creative Hands.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Autumn Values Focus:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friendship Generosity Thankfulness Perseverance Forgiveness Trust Humility Hope 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Spring Values Focus:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humility Integrity Respect Sacrifice Perseverance Hope 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Summer Values Focus:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trust Repentance Sacrifice Compassion Courage Love Integrity Perseverance
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Cycle B



Enquiring Minds, Caring Hearts, Creative Hands.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Autumn Values Focus:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friendship Sacrifice Service Humility Hope Trust Truthfulness Thankfulness Courage Joy 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Spring Values Focus:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justice Generosity Humility Integrity Perseverance Love 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Summer Values Focus:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hope Joy Repentance Perseverance Integrity Community Respect
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Cycle C

