



Yoxall St Peter's CofE Primary

Collective worship



Basic principles

At Yoxall St Peter's School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement.

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Christian values and vision

DREAM, BELIEVE, LEARN AND ACHIEVE

Through the vision of the leadership team, governors, teachers and stakeholders of this school, our children will

★ COMMUNITY

Dream and fight for a global community that lives well together

★ ASPIRATION

Believe in steadfast character development, hope, aspiration and courageous advocacy

★ WISDOM

Learn the wisdom, knowledge and skills they need for life

★ RESPECT

Achieve a school and seek a global society in which dignity and respect can flourish

Our Christian Aims, values and vision are stated at https://www.st-peters-yoxall.staffs.sch.uk/about_us/aims-and-vision/ These values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us: John 13:34-35 "....love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples". We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

Values Education via SMSC and British Values

We plan Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday - Whole school worship led by Father Jeremy. This introduces our theme of the week which reflects the Church calendar, key religious events from other world religions, our school ethos and current events. The worship begins with the children entering the hall to a either a hymn or a piece of music from our composer of the week. At the end of assembly, following prayers, the children will either listen to or join in a song whilst being led out to break.

Tuesday – Whole school worship, led by the Open the Book team. The team acts out a Bible story and the children reflect on its meaning. The OTB team will often choose different children to help act out the drama. At the end of the bible story the OTB team will invite the children to join in a prayer if they wish and the person leading the assembly will ask the children to reflect on what they have learnt.

Wednesday – Whole school worship, led by Head Teacher. The content of this assembly may ask children to reflect on the week's theme or any current affairs topics. It may also be a time to rejoice by singing or a time for children to have an opportunity to share experiences. Prayers will be read from the school's prayer box.

Thursday – Whole school assembly, often led by the Church Council. The Church council assemblies will be based around courageous advocacy and spirituality. The Lord's Prayer will be recited at the end of this assembly.

Friday - Whole school celebration led by the Headteacher or Deputy Head. Parents are invited in to celebrate achievements in and out of school. Our school prayer is recited at the end of this assembly.

Other faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, Yoxall St Peter's School ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors to the school are welcomed to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St Peter's Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource by classes but also the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas and Easter Services

Equal opportunities

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

Policy updated by Mrs K Dingle (Acting Headteacher) – September 2023