



Yoxall St Peter's CofE Primary

Collective worship



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

★ **WISDOM**

Learn the **wisdom**, knowledge and skills they need for life

★ **ASPIRATION**

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

★ **RESPECT**

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

Basic principles

Church of England schools are committed to offering high quality collective worship. They are places that recognise and value collective worship as central to fostering a sense of community and to expressing the school's Christian vision. In practice this means that structure, planning, evaluation, participation, collaboration, and inspection of worship are all taken seriously by the school and by diocesan authorities.

At Yoxall St Peter's School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life.

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. Our Collective worship policy should be read in conjunction with our British Values and SMSC policies as we believe they go hand in hand. Collective worship needs to be inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

Inclusive

Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. In our school, pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. Pupils and staff in our schools come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, we understand that many pupils are at different stages of their spiritual journey. At Yoxall St Peter's we endeavour that pupils should be given the opportunity to think and ask questions. We allow them space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching. Our collective worship aims to involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. It is recognised that pupils will bring their own experience to worship. Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship and as such, we involve our Church council which is made up of a variety of pupils whenever possible.

Invitational

At Yoxall St Peter's parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There is no expectation that anyone should "do anything". We always invite the children to pray but do not force them. Prayer is also used as a time for reflection which is sometimes accompanied by appropriate music. At Yoxall St Peter's we use the Lord's Prayer and also have our own school prayer which the children recite if they wish to do so in our collective worship time.

Inspiring

We always aim for our collective worship to inspire and engage. We use collective worship as an opportunity for pupils and adults to ask "bigger questions" about who we are, why we do what we do and why we behave in the way that we do. Our collective worship aims to motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, we aim to inspire pupils and adults to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions. We appreciate that there will always be those who are uncomfortable to enter through this open door of worship in our schools and so we recognise the right of withdrawal from collective worship for those parents or pupils who wish to exercise this option. Information regarding this can be found in the paragraph titled Legal Requirements

Values Education via SMSC and British Values

We plan Christian teaching and Values Education 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.

For our children to become well-rounded, responsible and engaged members of society, we aim to embed and live out our further values of TRUST, COMMUNITY, COMPASSION, PERSEVERENCE, FORGIVENESS and HOPE.

We use collective worship as opportunities to teach the children how faithfulness gains trust, a unified outlook can develop a strong community, we serve others with compassion, to persevere sometimes we must endure, we should forgive with grace and hope with expectancy.

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. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7cd8f740f0b6629523c2b7/Collective_worship_in_schools.pdf.

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