

Worship Subject Leader: **Mrs E. Simpson**
Worship Nominated Governor: **Fr. Cornelius Asghar**
Date policy written: October 2025
Date approved by the full Governing body: October 2025
Date to be reviewed: October 2028

Worship Policy

'Let Your Light Shine'

Matthew 5:16

We believe that all our children can **shine** and grow in confidence with God's love through our challenging and values centred curriculum; to **love** one another as Jesus loved us, to **challenge** each other and ourselves and be **inspired** by the love of God to love learning as disciples of Jesus.



VISION AND PURPOSE

At St Peter's we seek to realise the potential of each individual in a supportive and caring environment. We believe that all our children can shine and we strive for every member of our family. We aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, Christian commitment and sensitivity, and in partnership with the family and community, encourage all positive aspects of education and social development. Together we strive for high academic standards and to provide a wide variety of experiences to promote interests, life skills, confidence, and responsibility now and for later years.



PRINCIPLES, VALUES, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Our vision is rooted in Biblical teaching, 'Let Your Light Shine' Matthew 5:16. Our motto is Love, Challenge, Inspire and our vision declares that we believe that in sharing God's love, challenging one another to succeed and inspiring a love of learning as disciples of Jesus Christ.

A love of learning within a climate of high expectation, love and support is what we aim to provide at St Peter's. At the heart of St. Peter's are our Christian Values: Love, Compassion, Friendship, Peace, Trust and Respect. We embed these values in the life and work of each day. We wish pupils to attain the highest standards within worship and to gain life-long experiences from learning in this subject area. Our children are growing in God's love to become happy, confident and caring individuals.

The principles for delivering high quality worship at St Peter's CE Primary School are:

- To be consistent in the focus of developing positive attitudes towards Christian values and the teachings of Christ, whilst remaining sensitive to the needs of pupils whose roots are in other faiths.
- To engage, inspire and include all pupils within all aspects of worship to allow them to develop a stronger relationship with God.

At St. Peter's, we understand worship to be:

- A time when the whole school or key stage comes together to join in an act of worship
- A worship at St Peter's will involve a mix of stories and lessons from the Bible, celebration of Christian festivals, a clear message rooted in the Christian values, singing of hymns and time for prayer
- A moment of calm when the whole school comes together to share in the love of God and hear his word.

At St. Peter's, we aim to develop children spiritually by:

- Joining in worship on a daily basis either as a whole school, key stage or as a class
- Planning high quality, relevant worship time based on a half termly theme within a 3 year rolling programme.
- Inviting priests and ministers from a variety of Christian denominations into school to lead us in worship.
- Including children in worship time and encourage them to join the school's worship group to lead the school in worship on a Friday.



STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Aspects of Teaching and Learning

Time-tabling and planning at St. Peter's ensures that each week's theme is delivered at a level to ensure all children are able to engage and understand the teachings, and within all Key Stages be challenged through Big Questions to develop their own faith and beliefs:

Pupils are involved in setting up the hall in preparation for acts of worship. Music sets the tone for worship and pupils are expected to enter the hall silently. The candles are lit at the beginning of assembly to signify the start of worship time and a school worship prayer is said.

- Monday worship introduces the week's theme. It may involve the use of 'Faith' who is on a journey looking for God. This worship is led by either the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, a priest from our parish church or leaders from local churches.
- Tuesday worship is led by a member of SLT when children worship through 'songs of praise' and prayer. Pupils worship in class on a Wednesday. During this act of worship they follow session plans developed by the worship coordinator to reflect and develop their understanding of the week's theme and teaching, through Bible study, prayer, discussion, story-telling and personal reflection.
- Thursday worship is led by the Headteacher and focuses on a Christian value and how this links to faith in action or a Class leads the worship based on the week's

theme. Parents and friends of the school community are invited to join us for these worships to join us in prayer and enjoy the children's performances.

- Friday worship is led by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or SLT supported by Worship Group (a group of pupils who meet once a week after school). They celebrate success throughout the school by the giving of 'Golden Book' certificates and teachers explain the reasons why certificates have been given. They conclude the week's theme through a suitable Bible reading, prayer or short message. During this worship Faith Award is given to a nominated child for showing Christian values and our 'Secretly Famous' awards are given to members of the school family who have been acknowledged for living their faith in action.
- KS2 children attend Wednesday Eucharist services at the parish church.
- As a school we also visit church throughout the year as a whole school for special services including, at a minimum, Christmas Christingle (led by UKS2), and the End of Year Leaver's Service.
- Special services are also held throughout the year within school, to which ministers and members of the church community are invited. These include Nativity Performances (led by EYFS & KS1), Easter, and Eucharist.



INTEGRATING WORSHIP INTO THE LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

At St. Peter's, all children are given the opportunity to lead worship and given opportunities to reflect on their own beliefs and how to live their lives in a Christian way through the embodiment of the Christian values.

PLANNING AND RESOURCING

- The three year long term plan ensures an even coverage of the whole Christian faith, developing children's understanding on a wide range of values and themes.
- Annually key Christian events are celebrated and studied including Christmas (Advent), Harvest, Easter (Lent), Ash Wednesday and Epiphany.
- The worship leader plans termly for every worship, devising a clear progression of session to develop children's knowledge and understanding within each theme using 'Root and Fruits' and Living our Vision and Values. Each unit is rooted in values and how these can be lived out in our lives.
- Every worship is evaluated and used to inform future planning and development of worship.
- Faith is a valuable resource within worship alongside the Altar table which is set at the front of worship every day. A cross, candles, a copy of the Bible and other relevant symbols are placed on the table, which is draped in the relevant liturgical colour cloth based on the Christian calendar.
- Each class has a Worship Area which contains a Christian symbol, Bible, Values and school vision rooted in Biblical teaching and continues the use of liturgical purple.
- In addition to online resources, Roots and Fruits resources and the diocesan resources, PowerPoints are created to provide visual/audio stimulus and shown via the hall projector onto a screen. Come and praise, Out of the Ark and a variety of other Christian song materials are used for the sung element of Collective Worship. A variety of music pieces are used at the beginning and end

of Collective Worship and as pupils arrive and leave the hall. Wherever possible, these are linked to the theme of the worship.



ASSESSMENT, RECORDING AND REPORTING

Worship is not formally assessed at St Peter's but a worship 'journey' is completed within every class to record comments, work completed by the children and photos of them being actively involved within whole school and class worship. These are then available within the room for children to look back at and discuss at their own leisure.



MECHANISM FOR MONITORING AND REVIEWING

The Worship leader(s) monitors the implementation of this policy by supporting the class teachers in using the in class and whole school worship plans. Access and availability of accommodation, such as a quiet reflection space within every classroom and resources (such as crosses, prayer stones/trees and Bibles) are regularly checked and informal discussions with colleagues help to ensure regularity of worships and focused discussion based on the theme. Evaluated planning is collected and analysed. Pupil interviews are conducted annually to receive feedback and questions related to worship are included within parent questionnaires as well as more informal feedback at the end of class-led worships.



INCLUSION

At St. Peter's, we aim to:

- Provide for all children so that they are able to engage as well as they can in worship according to their individual abilities.
- Identify which pupils or groups of pupils are not actively participating within class worship and take steps to support them in being part of the worship time.
- Be mindful and respectful of children from other or no faith background and ensure they are included within the class worship and given opportunities to reflect upon their own faith.
- Modify teaching plans/equipment so that all pupils can access the subject.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

At St. Peter's, all children are provided with equal access to Worship time. We aim to provide suitable learning opportunities regardless of gender, ethnicity or home background.



HOME PARTNERSHIPS:

Children are invited to take part in learning experiences outside of school such as attending church services, especially Parade Sundays and during the main Christian festivals.



HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Staff and pupils are asked to consider the safety of themselves and others at all times. During lessons, pupils will be taught how to use equipment safely. The candles used within worship is placed on the centre of the alter table and well away from pupils. It is lit and extinguished by an adult and moved to a safe location when pupils come to the front of the hall.



ROLE OF SUBJECT LEADER:

The Worship Subject Leader at St. Peter's is responsible for improving the standards of teaching and learning in Worship.

The Subject Leader will:

- Monitor and evaluate Worship through in class worship observations, pupil interviews, planning and evaluations scrutiny and worship big-book scrutiny. This will follow the school monitoring timetable.
- Take the lead in policy development
- Audit and supporting colleagues in their CPD and experience in leading both whole school and in class worship, providing opportunities for all staff to lead a whole school worship if they wish to gain experience of doing so.
- Purchase and organise resources
- Keep up to date with recent diocesan developments
- Have regular meetings with subject governor.



THE GOVERNING BODY

Regular updates are made to the governors on worship within school and governors are all invited to join in and attend any worship time in school. This policy will be reviewed every three years or in the light of changes to legal requirements.



PARENTAL RIGHTS OF WITHDRAWAL IN A VOLUNTARY AIDED SCHOOL

Parents may withdraw their children from Worship and a formal request made to the Headteacher. The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England or Methodist Church Foundation. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England or Methodist Church ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and/or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school.



CONCLUSION

The Worship Policy addresses the issues relating to equal opportunities, children with special educational needs, the health and safety of pupils and staff and teaching and learning by incorporating the principles, values, aims and objectives of the following school policies:

- Equal Opportunities
- Special Needs
- Health and Safety
- Teaching and Learning
- Gifted and Talented