



St. Peter's Church of England
Primary School
– Collective Worship guidance for
Staff.

1) The aims of Collective Worship

The aim of collective worship at St. Peters is to:

Promote spiritual, moral, social, intellectual and cultural development of both children and staff by putting Anglican worship and values at the heart of our school.

2) Assemblies and Worship

There is a distinction between an "assembly" rather than "school worship"; largely that the former is a coming together to share a common purpose (such as the celebration of achievement) and the latter a meeting to acknowledge and reflect on God. They need not be distinct. Achievement should be seen in the setting of inspiration and of Christian beliefs and values. School worship is the place where we can acknowledge the infinitely larger world we inhabit and where our children may be moved by its mystery and wonder. Our school worship should, therefore, be an affirmation and celebration of the values and the ethos of our school.

3) Timing

Collective Worship is timetabled within the school day either in classes or in Church and can take part at any point during the school day, but as a rule is timetabled for after lunch. Collective Worship is separate from the curriculum and curriculum timing. It is very important that worship, particularly in class, is not inadvertently squeezed or forgotten by a very busy curriculum. Out of respect to both the Christian faith and our children's own spiritual lives, worship must not be made meaningless by being rushed. Children and Staff must be allowed time and space to engage with the above aims.

4) Responses during worship.

At St. Peter's we need to endeavour to include responses that are in everyday use in the Anglican Church (see separate sheet). School Worship needs to be directed at the spiritual needs of our children however we do a disservice to them if Collective Worship bears no resemblance to worship in churches they may engage with outside of the school context. Worship should not just serve children for their needs today but also prepare them for their future needs when they are no longer part of our school. Responses can be used at any part of worship and can be led by children as well as adults. Different responses should be introduced gradually to children

throughout the year – especially in the foundation and Key Stage 1 so children automatically respond to most forms of responsorial prayer by the time they reach Year 3.

5) Prayer

You will see on the attached sheet that we have a number of ‘standard prayers’ that should be used throughout the school day. These are in addition to other prayers such as the Lord’s Prayer.

Children in all year groups will need to learn these and use them every day; again they should be led by both adults and children. There are two lunch time and evening prayers that all children should know. This will allow us to choose between two so that prayer remains meaningful.

Remember when prayer is said in class as part of class worship a quick ‘Our Father’ and /or school prayer is unlikely to offer children sufficient fulfilment or spiritual nourishment.

Always encourage children to write down prayers either during R.E or Collective Worship that can be then put into the prayer box in the lobby.

6) Planning

The school will generally be following the Canterbury Diocesan plans. These plans are generally fit for purpose. However these are an aid not a millstone. If you would like to change or do something different to what’s in the plan then please do – just keep within the general theme and check you are not doing something that is going to be covered later.

7) Music

“Those who sing, pray twice.” St. Augustine of Hippo Circa 400AD.

Wherever possible please include music within your worship. Broadening our repertoire is a key focus this year. Many hymns are considered confessional and this needs to be considered when selecting hymns to sing with children.