

Collective Worship Policy Statement

LEYBOURNE Ss PETER & PAUL CE (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL



February 2023
Review date: February 2026

"Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles." Isaiah 40:31

LEYBOURNE Ss. PETER AND PAUL CHURCH OF ENGLAND **(VOLUNTARY AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL**

At Leybourne Ss Peter and Paul CEP Academy, we aim to nurture the spark of God within each member of our community. We provide our pupils with high quality learning opportunities, that allow us all to achieve our full potential in all we do, and to grow into well-rounded citizens of the world. Through embodying our Core Christian Values of Love, Trust, Compassion and Respect in everything we do, we aim to build a safe and joyful community with God.

We work hard to ensure that we recognise and celebrate the uniqueness of each individual and seek to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act (2010).

Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctive Christian character of our school, reaffirms our Christian values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England as well as other Christian traditions, and recognizes and follows the Church's liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

Aims

Collective worship at Leybourne Ss Peter and Paul CEP is in line with the school's Trust Deed and supports the school's Mission Statement, by providing opportunities for students and staff:

- to explore a relationship with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- to reflect on our explicit Christian values
- to develop personal spirituality especially through prayer, and also through a range of other experiences
- to be engaged in an exploration of the relevance and application of the Christian faith
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared Christian values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it.

The aim of school worship is to worship God through reflection and celebration, and to contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils, as appropriate to their ages and aptitudes.

- * It helps pupils' spiritual development by teaching them about God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and giving them the opportunity to worship him and offer times for reflection through prayer. Worship also enables them to hear about the Bible and to reflect on themselves and his world.
- * It helps pupils' moral development by having mutual respect for members within the school community and to be aware of different life values, while developing a common ethos and shared values based on Christian standards.
- * It helps pupils' social development by helping them to feel part of a community, and will reinforce positive attitudes. Our worship will encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered.
- * It helps pupils' cultural development by drawing on the Christian heritage – both through the Bible and other key writings, and through religious festivals and practices, as well as

by celebrating the customs and values of our society and the diverse cultural backgrounds of our children and of our country.

School worship is intended to help pupils to develop the skills necessary for worship, e.g. of reflection, silence, prayer and appreciation of Christian symbol, ritual and teaching.

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following may be described as shared Christian elements of collective worship:

Using the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories

Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Saints Days

Learning and saying Christian prayers from a number of sources, for example, the Lord's Prayer and the Grace

Using simple Anglican (or Methodist) liturgy at levels appropriate to students'/pupils' age

Singing a wide variety of Christian hymns and songs

Experiencing Christian symbolism in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles

Using prayer, silence and reflection

Celebrating the Eucharist/Holy Communion

Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement. In line with the statutory requirement, a Christian act of collective worship is provided for all pupils every day. All teachers attend all acts of collective worship. Time allocated to collective worship is not part of curriculum time.

Our Acts of Collective Worship are based on the Rochester Diocesan plans. They are organised by the coordinator for Collective Worship in the following ways:

	Group	Times	Place	Leader
Monday	Key Stage	9am	Hall / Classroom	Teachers
Tuesday	Whole School	9am	Hall	Headteacher
Wednesday	Whole School	9am	Hall	Revd Kelly
Thursday	Whole School	9am	Hall	Head of Upper School
Friday	Whole School	9am	Hall	KS Leader
	Whole School	2:55pm	Hall	Classes

The local incumbent leads worship weekly on a Wednesday.

As an Aided School, Acts of Worship are normally held in school. However, on special occasions the Act of Worship may be held elsewhere, for example, the Parish Church.

Each class is asked to lead a short Act of Worship once a term. These Acts of Worship are based on our identified Core Christian Values of Love, Trust, Compassion and Respect.

A worshipful atmosphere is created by the use of a calm entry, a lighted candle, music and a lectern. A variety of worship experiences are offered to pupils and staff, including prayer, music, silence, Bible reading, story, drama and the use of visitors. Acts of Worship follow a consistent format to further support pupil understanding and engagement.

Pupils are encouraged to lead worship and prayer and to take a full part in our Acts of Worship in school and Church, where they also lead prayers and readings and act as acolytes.

Prayer Corners

Each class has a prayer corner which serves as a focal point for class based worship.

Special Services and Church Links

Strong links exist between Church and School with the local incumbent taking regular Acts of Worship. The school regularly attends Church for special services e.g. the Remembrance Service in November. Festivals of the Church year are frequently celebrated in Church e.g. Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. The Family Trust leads collective worship six times a year within school.

Participation and Withdrawal

As a church school, worship plays a central part in our school life and is important educationally for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Therefore, although parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from this school activity, they are encouraged to discuss this fully with the Headteacher before reaching a decision. Teachers are asked to sign, as part of their contract, a declaration that they will participate in all aspects of worship and support the Christian ethos. As a result, all teachers are expected to attend worship when they are in class. Teaching assistants are expected to attend worship at least twice a week.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation takes place using monitoring materials provided by the Diocese.

Self-evaluation and Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

School Self-evaluation is completed on the SIAMS Self-evaluation forms provided by the Diocese. Worship is inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act (SIAMS).