



Collective Worship Policy

Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness

St Paul's School is a Church of England Primary School and as such has a Christian tradition and ethos.

St Paul whole-heartedly served others (Acts 11:26), he was brave and did not give up even when things were difficult (Acts 20:22-24). Inspired by him, we work together with courage and perseverance to nurture everyone in our school community, valuing each person's uniqueness, and seeking to enable them to learn, grow and flourish.

Our collective worship reflects and reinforces the schools, vision aims and ethos. We strive to articulate a message that is inspiring but also recognises the wholeness of each child with the desire to facilitate their emotional and spiritual growth. Our collective worship both implicitly, and explicitly, demonstrates our Christian values and our school value statements:

Trust: "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you" Psalm 56:3

The Christian message is that God can be trusted - we can put our faith in him and confidently rely on him to have our best interests at heart. Trust must be at the core of every healthy team and community: it means we can feel safe. At St Paul's school we learn how to earn the trust of others, how to be trusting and secure in our relationships, and how to rebuild trust when it is broken.

Respect: "Show respect to all people" 1 Peter 2:17

Because we believe that God created all people with equal worth and the highest value, we respect everyone equally. This means that it is important that we are polite, kind, and appreciate each other. We encourage everyone to have respect for themselves, show dignity to all others, and care for our environment.

Compassion: "All of you – be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble." 1 Peter 3:8

Christians believe that compassion means 'to suffer with' and we learn compassion from Jesus, the suffering Saviour. Within our school we value compassion as it builds empathy, allowing us to connect with others sensitively and with understanding. When we learn how to give and receive compassion, everyone is able to grow.

Hope: "May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you." Psalm 33:22

We believe that God never gives up on us, his forgiveness is a gift and He gives us hope for the future. This means that at St Paul's obstacles and wrongdoing do not have the last word, and good things can come from any bad situation. We seek to be a community of hope and aspiration that inspires and motivates every child to live their life to the full.

Perseverance: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13

Because we believe that God helps us to grow, especially through challenges, we value perseverance. We have a vision for everyone at St Paul's being lifelong learners; trying their best, enduring in tough times, being open to new experiences. In order to flourish, we aim to support every child with the diverse challenges of everyday life.

Wisdom: "Respect for the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Proverbs 9:10

We believe that educating children to be wise is more important than teaching them to be clever. Wise people are discerning, they understand right from wrong and with integrity make God-honouring choices. We pursue wisdom through nurturing a deep understanding of self, family, community, the world and God.

At St Paul's School we consider Collective Worship to be an important part of the school day. An opportunity to reflect and develop the school's distinctive Christian character but also an opportunity to contribute to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of pupils and staff. A moment of pause, stillness and quiet in the midst of a busy day.

Aims of our acts of collective worship.

We aim for our collective worship to

- a) Be a daily expression of our school's Christian vision.
- b) Be inclusive, invitational and inspiring for all pupils, staff and parents and visitors
- c) Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- d) Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- e) Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- f) Enable pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- g) Encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

Collective worship includes the educational opportunities for

- a) the whole community to celebrate;
- b) sharing and experiencing differences;
- c) developing a culture of learning;
- d) making visible the school's leadership;
- e) building a sense of group identity and learning how to behave in a large social group;
- f) exploring feelings and emotions and developing inner awareness
- g) children and adults to learn how, and to have confidence to, speak in front of a large group
- h) encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility, particularly through the weekly use of 'Picture news' where children and adults can dwell on

- relevant national and international issues and consider how this resonates with both our school values and British values;
- i) a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Local Committee to provide a daily act of collective worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and Foundation. The school meets with requirement. This requirement is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents or teachers contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school pack.

Planning of Collective Worship

See Appendix 1 for the organisation of collective worship for the current academic year.

The Headteacher plans the themes for the year / term and then creates a detailed half termly plan taking account of school activities, festivals and import events.

The person leading the collective worship is expected to plan their worship as carefully as they would a lesson.

Each Collective worship will take the format of:

- Gather
- Engage
- Respond / Reflect
- Send

Each Collective Worship should:

- Be thoughtfully delivered in an age appropriate manner. All pupils should feel included and involved, regardless of ability, religion or culture.
- have as its central focus the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- be both an educational and an inspirational experience.
- underpin the Christian values of the school.
- offer opportunities for spiritual development and growth through experiences of stillness, worship and reflection.
- be participatory – inviting pupils to join in with readings (including references from The Bible), singing, prayer, thought, reflection and silence where appropriate.

Pupils are involved in dialogue about the planning and leading of Collective Worship through consultation with the children's faith team. The faith team will also plan and lead an act of worship at least once a term.

Class worship happens weekly, with suggestions and activities given to class teachers that resonate with the weekly focus and termly theme. Where possible, staff are encouraged to allow the children to take an active part in the leading of these reflection times.

Themes

- We take the themes of our Collective Worship from the Guildford Diocese - [https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/document?tags\[\]=73&search=&sort=title-asc](https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/document?tags[]=73&search=&sort=title-asc) . These include material provided by the Diocese of Guildford and online assembly material from provider such as the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK), Barnabas in schools and the Big assembly. In addition, each term the

festivals and events of the Christian calendar are included and celebrated at St Paul's Church.

- To see the current theme for the Diocese of Guildford Collective Worship, please click on this link:

[https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/document?tags\[\]=73&search=&sort=title-asc](https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/document?tags[]=73&search=&sort=title-asc)

Visitors

We welcome visitors to support the leading of our collective worship. Some visitors are invited to share their experiences, linked to the theme of the collective worship, other visitors present a whole collective worship on a theme requested by the Headteacher. We welcome **Rev Alex, Steve and Rev Rachel** from St Paul's Church and they lead weekly Collective Worship on a Wednesday. The HT talks through the Collective worship plan with one of the team at St Paul's each half term. The St Paul's team are involved in any service conducted in school or at the church, including Remembrance, Harvest, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Christmas as well as Leavers' services.

Visitors should understand that in schools **E** is for **Education** not **Evangelism** and avoid proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause without the prior permission of the headteacher.

Governors

We welcome Governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

Monitoring, Review and Inspection

It is the role of the Governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The content and brief self-evaluation by the person leading the worship are recorded in a folder, which is kept in the Headteacher's office and recorded on GVO in the SIAMS folder.

The Headteacher, the SIAMS working group and the Children's Faith Team seek feedback from the children and staff about collective worship every term.

The School will also be inspected through Section 48 SIAMS inspection

Reviewed by SIAMS working group: September 2025

Ratified by Local Committee – October 2025

Appendix 1 Organisation of Collective Worship for the academic year

We hold a daily act of worship in our School, taking various forms:

The exact day that the style of worship takes place may vary depending on the activities in the school, and availability of visitors however this is the intended pattern for collective worship;

- Monday: Introduction of the Focus for the week by the Headteacher
- Tuesday: Singing assembly
- Wednesday: Religious stories led by a member of St Paul's Church team
- Thursday: Class thoughtful time alternating between Big Question based on the focus of the week and Picture News
- Friday: Concluding of the focus for the week and celebration assembly.

Class assemblies

Each class presents one class assembly in the academic year. We invite parents to watch their child participate in a class assembly.

Festival and celebrations in the church

At St Paul's School we celebrate

Harvest

Remembrance Day

Christmas

Ash Wednesday

Easter

Pentecost

The school's saint's day is 29th June (the feast of St Peter and St Paul)

Prayer Space

St Paul's church lead a prayer space day as part of our annual Easter Pause Day reflections.