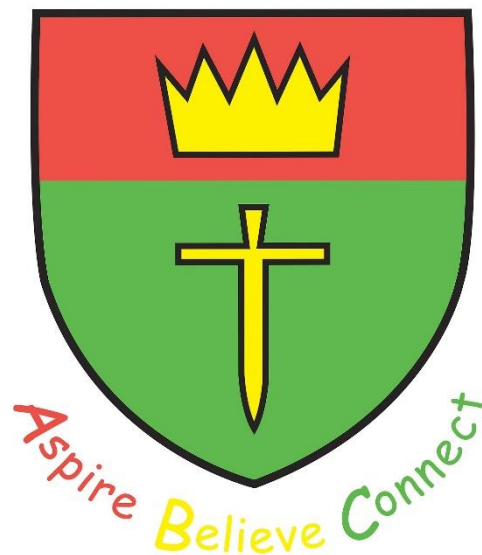


St Oswald's CE VA Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

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Collective Worship Policy:

Principles and Implementation

Agreed by governors: December 2021

Implementation date: December 2021

Review date: December 2024

Vision, Ethos and Values



Background

Our Ethos and Values Statement is an easy to understand model of religious education in St Oswald's. Children in our school know that love is the most important value of all, in line with the new command that Jesus gave us to love one another ([John 13:34](#)), which is why this is placed above all in our statement.

Vision

Our school vision is 'God has a plan' ([Jeremiah 29:11](#)). At St Oswald's, we believe that God has a wonderful plan for us all and we seek to discover that plan on a daily basis, weaving this into our school values and all aspects of school.

Ethos

Sitting below love lies our school's ethos: *Aspire, Believe, Connect*. As easy as A, B, C, this statement is easy to remember and most importantly represents what we want our children to do in every aspect of their education and lives.

Core Christian Values

The mission statement is underpinned by seven core Christian values that each link to one aspect of *Aspire, Believe, Connect*. As children aspire to be the best they can be in every way, they will grow in wisdom. In order to believe in themselves and develop their own beliefs about the world around them, our children are taught about the importance of trust and strength on their journey. We also believe in the values of peace and friendship in helping us to connect with those around us. Binding together all of these and very much at the heart of our values - and indeed the Christian gospel/Jesus' teaching - is love ([John 3:16](#); [Mark 12:31](#)).

Planning

Themes

We believe that God has a great plan for us all ([Jeremiah 29:11](#)). The Collective Worship themes in St Oswald's are planned in line with the Ethos and Values Statement by the Collective Worship coordinator, the Head Teacher, governors, the Christian Council and other children. With each weekly theme, there will be a link to at least one of the core Christian values of our school. The context of each week is crucial; this is sometimes determined by the time of year (theme fitting around the calendar context) or can alternatively be a way of making a given Bible story relevant and purposeful to the children of St Oswald's (contextualising the theme). Themes are decided upon on a termly basis rather than a yearly basis so that the impact of worship in one term can be responded to in the following term, which is in line with learning and teaching at St Oswald's.

Scripture

We believe in the importance and power of scripture ([Ephesians 6:17](#)). All scripture is chosen in line with weekly themes. Scripture drives our learning and teaching within worship, and as a thriving and diverse worshipping community, we look to understand the Bible in both its original context and how it can be applied to life in modern day Britain. The weekly scripture reference is displayed in the

main hall and all classrooms alongside weekly themes, with these boards being updated on a weekly basis.

Whole-school Worship

Whole-school worship sessions are planned by different members of the school community in line with the weekly theme and scripture. Senior leaders, other staff members, governors, the Christian Council and other children are all involved in the planning of whole-school worship sessions. These plans are made available to all staff in advance of the worship session itself.

Weekly Worship Sessions

Whole-school Worship

Every Monday morning, the leader for the weekly theme (made clear on the termly worship plan) introduces the theme of the week to the whole school and relates this to the school's Ethos and Values Statement. All staff attend and take an active role within these sessions, which supports them in planning and delivering the rest of the week's content and gives them an opportunity to develop their own spirituality.

Weekly Challenges

At the end of whole-school worship sessions, R/KS1 and KS2 tasks are introduced to the children. Children will then complete these tasks in their own classes the following day in worship sessions that are led by class teachers. Challenge evidence is recorded by staff and sent across to the weekly worship leader to share with the school community on a Friday.

Prayer Space Sessions

We are a school that pray and spiritually reflect in a wide range of ways ([James 5:13](#)). Prayer Space sessions allow children across the school a free choice of how they wish to pray or reflect on the weekly theme. Once reminded of the theme and verse of the week by their class teacher, children will pray or reflect in their chosen way, drawing on what they learned during whole-school and weekly task worship sessions. Staff may choose to make specific prayer stations available in this session, such as ones modelled on whole-school Prayer Space days. Children are encouraged to add reflections of all types to their class Prayer Space. Classes

are also encouraged to visit the Prayer Space HQ during this session, where again they can complete reflections but this time in a unique, out-of-class environment.

Praise through Music Worship Sessions

We are enthusiastic musical worshippers at St Oswald's ([Psalm 150: 1-5](#)). Worship through music happens in two different ways, depending upon the time of year. When important events on the church calendar are approached, such as Harvest, Christingle, Christmas and Easter, then children are brought together for whole-school singing in preparation for those upcoming church services. At other times (at least twice across a school year), music workshops are run by class teachers. These workshops give children the opportunity to engage with weekly themes through music in a variety of ways other than simply singing, such as through composition, digital music, playing instruments and writing parodies. All of these tasks will be tied closely in with the school's Ethos and Values Statement and crucially the relevant core Christian value for that time of year. For instance, in Autumn term, children may be creating songs based upon wisdom. Songs created can be based upon Biblical stories and principles and include references to relevant key verses and worship themes, or may be more of a personal reflection on these ideas.

Praise and Celebration Worship

Fellowship is integral to us all at St Oswald's, believing that God will be present when we gather ([Matthew 18:20](#)). Every Friday morning, we celebrate the achievements of children both in and out of school. All children and staff are present at these sessions, with parents and carers being invited along each week, too. Each meeting begins and ends with a time of worship, during which the weekly theme will be revisited and children may be given the opportunity to share tasks, reflections and pieces of music that they have worked on across the week. The St Oswald's worshipping community is at its strongest numerically on a Friday morning and staff, parents and carers are encouraged to take an active part through carefully prepared all-age worship, planned and delivered by the Collective Worship coordinator.

Courageous Advocacy Groups Worship

During the summer term, across the whole school, our focus changes to look more outward towards the wider community and world. Children are given a voice about what they feel passionately about, before becoming 'courageous advocates' for a range of causes. Through this, we are following Jesus' command to love one

another ([John 13:34](#)), and putting into principle the Biblical notion of love in action ([Romans 12:9-21](#)).

Evidencing Collective Worship Work

Evidence from Collective Worship sessions is now kept electronically. Each week, staff will add one example of a weekly challenge and one example of a reflection. Examples of work completed in praise through music sessions, photographs taken during sessions and any further work will also be added on a termly basis. This work is not to be marked, as this is not a means of assessment, but rather a portfolio of evidence demonstrating and celebrating children's engagement in Collective Worship sessions. Children's spiritual development can be tracked using these records. It is advantageous to keep records digitally for the purposes of GDPR and so that a greater breadth of evidence can be gathered, such as videos, audio recordings, digital responses and more.

Displays

The main Collective Worship displays are in the hall. These are updated on a termly basis and are in line with worship themes. Each display includes the verse of the week for the relevant theme that the board depicts and shows children's reflections and work from worship sessions. The first display on entrance to the school, entitled *Aspire, Believe, Connect*, introduces visitors immediately to what our school is all about, with our Ethos and Values Statement at the very heart of this board, just as it is at the heart of our school. All classrooms have a Prayer Space in which work completed in Collective Worship sessions can be shown.

Church services

There are four main church services across the year, providing regular opportunities for us to gather together the wider worshipping community ([Matthew 18:20](#)). These are: Harvest Festival, Christingle Service, Christmas Nativity & Singalong and Easter. These are prepared by the Collective Worship co-ordinator and each of these will involve children from across the whole school. Relevant aspects of the Ethos and Values Statement feed directly into these services through the strategic planning of worship themes around the Christian calendar. Parents and carers are invited along to each of these services. The children themselves hold each of these services together, planning and writing their own parts. When services cannot be held, these are done online via Google Meet, with active participation enabled and encouraged through the comments box.

Home Learning

At St Oswald's, we provide opportunities for pupils to complete family projects linked to Collective Worship themes. These often centre on fundraising for charities of the children's choice. It is important to note that these projects are optional and are not part of children's compulsory homework.

Please see later section around the Coronavirus pandemic of 2020 and 2021 for specific changes around Collective Worship at this time.

Role of the Co-ordinator

There is a named co-ordinator responsible for co-ordinating the delivery of Collective Worship throughout the school. Their role is to:

- provide support, advice and resources to members of staff;
- monitor the delivery of Collective Worship sessions;
- attend relevant training and support staff through the delivery of training sessions;
- set the new worship themes prior to the beginning of each new term;
- communicate rationale of worship themes clearly to the Headteacher in order to aid delivery of whole-school worship sessions.

The Christian Council

The Christian Council is a small group of KS2 children, selected at the beginning of the year and distinct from the School Council (there is no overlap of personnel between the two councils). The Christian Council meet on a weekly or fortnightly basis, depending upon the time of year, and complete the following duties:

- championing the Christian ethos of the school;
- understanding and discussing the person of Jesus Christ;
- working alongside other Christians, including Reverend Alan;
- planning acts of worship;
- delivering/leading acts of worship;
- going out into the community to show love in action (e.g. taking an active role in supporting the work of Hebburn Helps and Operation Christmas Child with the Samaritan's Purse);
- leading the school in new initiatives (e.g. the Global Neighbours scheme);
- collecting and presenting information and data around school engagement in Collective Worship;
- preparing and providing Collective Worship CPD for staff and other school stakeholders from a child's perspective.

Monitoring

Collective Worship sessions are monitored across the year by the Collective Worship co-ordinator. Whole-school worship observations are completed, after which the co-ordinator and the leader of worship will discuss strengths and areas to develop with a view to moving forwards. Worship files are taken in by the co-ordinator across the year, while learning walks during worship sessions also provide an opportunity for the Collective Worship co-ordinator and Head Teacher to monitor worship sessions across the school. Collective Worship evidence is also monitored, both by the Collective Worship co-ordinator and those who work alongside him.

Collective Worship non-negotiables

These are set by the Collective Worship co-ordinator and head teacher and are to be adhered to by all who lead worship sessions.

Educational Visits and Visitors in School

Visitors from all walks of life will come into the school across the year and deliver worship sessions to the children. These visits are strategically planned in line with worship themes across the year. Worship visits to places outside of school are encouraged in order to challenge children's views that worship only happens within four walls, in a church or inside school. Our courageous advocacy worship sessions provide a further opportunity for visitors to be invited into school and visits to be arranged. When it is not possible for visitors to attend school, then Google Meet sessions or pre-recorded videos are arranged.

Equal Opportunities

Every child is entitled to be taught Collective Worship regardless of their age, culture, gender, background or special need or disability. Collective Worship develops a balanced view of the multi-cultural society which we live in without compromising the faith, non-faith or cultural background of any pupil.

Role of Stakeholders in Policy

All stakeholders have a role to play in our policy. Governors have a responsibility to support and uphold our school's Ethos and Values Statement and Collective Worship. There is a named foundation governor responsible for monitoring the impact of Collective Worship upon our school community and supporting in its

delivery. Children and staff are empowered in leading and being active participants in all Collective Worship sessions, whilst parents are encouraged to join our sessions online and support the school's ethos from home.

Collective Worship Amendments During Covid-19 (2020/21)

1. Collective worship sessions will still take place on a daily basis at the beginning of each day.
2. All sessions will continue to take part in classrooms, with no sessions together in the hall. Monday and Friday sessions to be live sessions on Google Meet, sessions which can be joined by the whole school community, including children, staff, parents and governors.
3. Andrew Richardson (or staff who he has delegated the responsibility to at the beginning of the term) to provide content for Monday morning worship, which will be either in the form of PowerPoint slides or video, sending this out to staff prior to 8:30am on the Monday morning of delivery.
4. Member(s) of staff who deliver the Monday worship will then provide worship challenge for the week, which is to be completed in classes as usual during Tuesday morning worship. Class teachers encouraged to share comments, photographs or videos linking to challenge with Andrew Richardson by Tuesday 4:30pm for him to use in Friday morning worship.
5. Prayer Space sessions to happen every Wednesday morning, with a continued greater focus on personal reflection and PSHE/RSE amidst Covid-19. Allison Hope and Jayne Dixon to lead on supporting staff with ideas and resources for these sessions.
6. Praise through Music sessions to continue in class. Any potential singing can only take place within Covid-19 restrictions and the primary focus will remain sustained listening, although composition and playing instruments may be used. The song(s) to listen to each week will, by default, be the intro and outro song(s) from Monday morning worship, although Andrew Richardson and John Hayton may also offer further suggestions for music to be listened to and discussed across the term in line with weekly themes.
7. Andrew Richardson (or staff who he has delegated the responsibility to) to provide content for Friday worship, which will be either in the form of PowerPoint slides or video and will be delivered live on Google Meet during Praise and Celebration Assembly at 9:05am. This content will include children's responses to the weekly challenge as sent by staff.