

# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



## INSPIRING LEARNING THROUGH FAITH AND VALUES

Pembridge is a school where we encourage everyone to be inspired through their faith in God and to live by Christian values so that our creative teaching and learning is of the highest quality, our whole community flourishes and we reflect all that is worthy of praise.

## INTRODUCTION

Pembridge Church of England (Aided) Primary School regards collective worship as central to its foundation status as a church school. It is an integral and important part of school life.

Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our vision in which we live out that ***Pembridge is a school where we encourage everyone to be inspired through their faith in God and to live by Christian values so that our creative teaching and learning is of the highest quality, our whole community flourishes and we reflect all that is worthy of praise.***

Collective worship is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on exploring the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

We celebrate that worship within the traditions of the Church of England exists for all. We truly wish for our worship to be inclusive, invitational, and inspiring.

## LIVING THE VISION

**"Brothers and sisters, continue to think about the things which are good and worthy of praise. Think about the things that are true and honourable and right and pure and beautiful and respected. And do what you learned and received from me. Do what I told you and what you saw me do. And the God who gives peace will be with you."**

Philippians 4:8-9

Pembridge Church of England Primary School values Paul's teaching to the people of Philippi so that those things worthy of praise are cherished in everybody's lives so that all may truly flourish. We like to think that a thread of Pembridge runs through each one of us like the Holy Spirit, nourishing and strengthening us day by day.

Pembridge is a Place of love and peace,  
Where everyone Enjoys learning more each day.  
The growing of Minds and hearts  
Helps us all Be inspired through God's word.  
Everyone knows to Respect each other  
Within a community of Imagination and happiness.  
This school encourages Determination to achieve goals,  
Whilst rejoicing in harmony by the Grace of God:  
All are welcome here!

*Written by the children of Years 5 and 6, March 2019*

Our acts of worship celebrate this vision to reflect all that is worthy of praise. They provide an opportunity to explore Christian liturgy, stories (sometimes from wider world views) and values in an ethos which actively encourages awe, wonder and reflection.

Our core set of values have included some of the following:

|              |          |               |            |
|--------------|----------|---------------|------------|
| Friendship   | Hope     | Stewardship   | Commitment |
| Unity        | Patience | Inspiration   | Love       |
| Appreciation | Grace    | Understanding | Respect    |
| Harmony      | Justice  | Trust         | Service    |

## UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT PEMBRIDGE

The following principles are considered when arranging acts of collective worship:

- Collective worship should aim to provide an opportunity for staff, pupils and visitors to appreciate the relevance of what worshipping God is like.
- Acts of collective worship should be at a time of day set aside for a unique occasion which celebrates the beliefs and backgrounds of individual members.
- An act of collective worship should acknowledge and value the response of each pupil. It should be a time to share thoughts and ideas.
- Collective worship should provide an opportunity to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and develop an understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God.
- Acts of worship should provide opportunities for pupils to express feelings of delight, joy, sorrow and to rejoice in the good.
- An act of worship should be designed for all children and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of reflection, stillness and prayer.
- An act of worship should be a daily reinforcement of the feeling of community - one body of people with different views valuing each other as individuals.
- An act of worship is an interactive process.
- Some acts of worship should make the children look beyond the immediate environment of the school and reinforce their place in the wider community.
- Acts of worship should introduce pupils to various aspects of religious worship in an open and honest atmosphere (e.g. poetry, drama, music, art).
- Acts of worship should encourage pupils to have confidence in their own traditions and to value the traditions of others.
- Collective worship should also enable children (and adults) to develop skills through engaging others through planning, leading and evaluating so that practice is improved.
- Collective worship is something that is not bound by the constraints of time and place: the effects of worship should permeate through the life of the school.
- Collective worship should be the '**beating heart**' of the school.
- Put succinctly, worship should be truly **welcoming, inclusive** and exemplifying the principles of Christian **hospitality**.

It is **not** a time to give out notices and this distinction should be made clear in the time for meeting and worshipping together; for example, the candle is lit after any notices and before the liturgical welcome.

## WHAT DOES COLLECTIVE WORSHIP LOOK LIKE AT PEMBRIDGE?

Our daily acts of Collective Worship are loosely based around themes: the value leads the way with other aspects such as current affairs, courageous advocacy, church/school projects adding to the mix. We always include celebrations of the main festivals in the Church's calendar: Christmas, Epiphany, Candlemas, Easter, Ash Wednesday, Pentecost, Ascension and Harvest thanksgiving. When possible, we try to include parents and carers to share in our worship.

In our acts of Collective Worship, we may use collects, other special prayers and greetings for that part of the church year, and the liturgical colour is in evidence as a table cloth designed by school children and created lovingly by 'stitchers' in the village. Symbols appropriate to the Church year are sometimes used e.g. a Pascal candle, Advent ring, bread and 'wine'.

We may use greetings or blessings from different sources including those from the [Church of England website](#). The [Barnabas in Schools](#) website offers some excellent material as does [Roots and Fruits](#).

The local rector of St Mary's, Rev'd Anna Branston, who is also one of our school governors, regularly visits school to lead worship. We also encourage the children to see St Mary's Church, Pembridge as their church,

and on occasions like Remembrance Sunday and Mothering Sunday, we join the congregation and contribute to the worship. We value the community relations we develop through being invited to share Pembridge's major events and for us to invite the community to share worship with us. A small group of parishioners occasionally lead worship with us in school.

We visit St Mary's Church regularly for special services and as a learning tool to assist in the understanding of the Christian faith and its history and traditions. We also offer suggestions as to what the church might offer a worshipping community which includes our children and families. The [Growing Faith Adventure](#) is an opportunity to build this relationship.

Children are often invited to take part in our worship through reading, drama, saying prayers and sharing other talents with the school. In Key Stage 2 classes, children regularly lead and evaluate worship on a weekly basis and this is enjoyed by adults and peers alike. Other groups of children may lead worship taking stewardship of God's creation or courageous advocacy themes as their inspiration. Groups of children occasionally visit other local schools to lead worship too.

We maintain contact with the Diocese through visits to the Cathedral for the workshops or special celebration services, particularly through our friendship with the Hereford Cathedral School. Visits and e-links from the Diocesan education team also enrich our approach.

We value the significance of visitors contributing to the richness of worship; for example, Joe Whitfield (Leominster Baptist Church) attends on a regular basis and also leads a Spotlight Christian after-school club.

## **ORGANISATION OF WORSHIP**

### **Setting and Resources**

Within the constraints of the school building we try to provide a setting that will enhance the act of worship. This setting may be the classroom or the hall. On occasions, weather permitting, acts of worship may be held outside in the school grounds. The local parish church is also used for special services and at major festivals. We try to make use of a variety of seating arrangements so that all the children can participate fully.

We also try to provide a focal point for the act of worship - it may be a table laid with a cloth, a cross, a candle, a picture or a vase of flowers. Children from Year 5 and Year 6 take opportunities to set up the worship table and create the right environment for worship. A central collection of resources is kept just outside the hall. It contains items such as crosses, candles, candlesticks, snuffers, tablecloths in the colours for the cycle of the church's year.

A wide variety of resources are used to encourage discussion and reflection: music, movement, poetry, pictures, videos, photographs, stories, children's work, role play, drama, natural objects, artefacts, candles, and incense.

Local clergy are seen as a very valuable resource, and are used regularly to lead acts of worship. When possible, we invite others to lead worship including governors.

### **Planning, Recording and Evaluating**

Our acts of worship are flexibly planned around an annual programme of values themes taking account of important church festivals, key dates (e.g. saint's days) or key events in the life of the children, school and country. We also try to make links, wherever possible, with curricular themes being covered in that term. The school council, learning ambassadors or eco-committee may plan and conduct an act of worship.

Periodically, children, staff and adults evaluate worship. The ethos committee, including governors take opportunities during the year to ask questions to help shape and reform the way the Christian ethos is lived out, including how we might develop worship.

Each class leads a termly worship to which parents are invited. These celebrate the breadth of work that is happening in classes but with a focused Christian message. Popular Stay and Play sessions are held after each worship with a variety of activities for parents/visitors and the children to join in which have a link with the theme. Children's work in books is often shared.

### **The Weekly Diary of Acts of Worship**

| <b>Day</b> | <b>Activity [9.30-9.50]</b>                                                                                            | <b>Collective Worship Opportunity</b>                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday     | Whole school (children and staff) meets in the hall led by the headteacher HT, Rev'd Anna Branston or visiting speaker | Liturgy, story and prayers linked to Anglican lectionary and/or values. Time for reflection and appropriate worship song. Children may be involved in drama or reading.                         |
| Tuesday    | Whole schools Songs and Praise led by Mr Hollis and Miss Osborne.                                                      | A variety of songs (Out of the Ark, classic hymns and other relevant modern worship songs) practised and enjoyed with reference made to words and values within. Prayers – staff- or child-led. |
| Wednesday  | Members of staff take turns to lead the whole school.                                                                  | Story and theme often reflects living out the monthly value. Some current affairs create the theme.                                                                                             |
| Thursday   | Key Stage worship – in classrooms. KS2 children create and lead their own worship.                                     | Story, message, prayer and (sometimes) song link with focus of worship appropriate to children's age.                                                                                           |
| Friday     | Whole school meet for Celebration Worship (2.45pm).                                                                    | A focus on celebrating and sharing achievements: Gold Certificates given by all staff, Learning Ambassadors choose one child each week, outside school achievements, and the Courtesy Cup.      |

### **RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL**

In accordance with the Education Reform Act of 1998, we acknowledge the right of parents to withdraw their child from Acts of Collection Worship should they wish to do so, and if this situation arises within school, suitable arrangements for the supervision of the child during these periods will be made after discussion with the parents.

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