



St Paul's Church of England Primary School

Fountain of Life



Overflowing generosity Recognise

& Illuminate

Way of Life

All God's Children

Reaching out to others

Devotion to each other and God

*For with you is the Fountain of life; **in your light we see light.** (Psalm 36 vs9)*

Inspired by God's love for us, we illuminate the goodness in others, we care for and protect His children and reach out to help others flourish in their journey to the fullness of life

Policy to be reviewed: September 2026

Worship and Prayer Life - Lead Teacher

Mrs Hutton

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1 Introduction

“When every hope is gone, 'when helpers fail and comforts flee,' I find that help arrives somehow, from I know not where. Supplication, worship, prayer are no superstition; they are acts more real than the acts of eating, drinking, sitting or walking. It is no exaggeration to say that they alone are real, all else is unreal.”

Mahatma Gandhi, The Story of My Experiments With Truth

2 Philosophy

- 2.1 St Paul’s Church of England Primary School is a Church of England Academy. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community. It is attended by pupils, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

3 Collective Worship and the Law

- 3.1 Church schools in the Hereford Diocese must fulfil two legal requirements for Collective Worship:
- 3.2 The legal requirement for Church schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.



3.3 “The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.”

4 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

4.1 Collective worship in Church schools must be in accordance with the school's trust deed.

4.2 Collective Worship is in accordance with our Trust Deed Trust deed, ethos and mission statements.

4.3 The school preserves and develops its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish, diocesan and national levels.

4.4 The school serves its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

4.5 All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations and Monday worship takes place in Church.



Diocesan 'Shine' service for Y6 Leavers in Hereford Cathedral

5 Defining Collective Worship

5.1 The hymn, prayer, story and moral are together Collective Worship.

5.2 Collective worship at St Paul's reflects something special or separate from ordinary school activities and is concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power.



5.3 Our acts of worship encompass all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that all who take part feel involved. It both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the school. It develops a feeling of belonging to a community, which is essential for personal development and physical growth.

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Responsibilities of the Governing Body

- 6.1 To fulfil their legal and statutory responsibilities to uphold the Christian foundation of the school.
- 6.2 To ensure all staff are made clear of their responsibility to uphold the Christian ethos and foundation of the school upon appointment.

7 Responsibilities of the school

- 7.1 To clearly prepare acts of collective worship which follow the liturgical calendar and Gospel Values.
- 7.2 To ensure parents are aware that the school is a Church school and as such, our Collective Worship will be based upon the foundations and principles of the Church of England.



8 Responsibilities of the pupils

- 8.1 To actively engage in all collective worship at St Paul's

9 Aims of Collective Worship at St Paul's

- 9.1 It is our aim at St Paul's Church of England Primary School that worship here will:
 - 9.1.1 offer opportunities to worship God
 - 9.1.2 underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school



- 9.1.3 reflect the schools' Trust Deed
- 9.1.4 reflect the school's Church of England foundation in a tangible way
- 9.1.5 reflect the Ethos Statement and Mission Statement of the school
- 9.1.6 reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church
- 9.1.7 provide an opportunity for thought, prayer, reflection and celebration in a caring atmosphere
- 9.1.8 be inclusive and an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected
- 9.1.9 be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils
- 9.1.10 offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- 9.1.11 help children explore and develop their own spirituality
- 9.1.12 enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- 9.1.13 help children think about a wide variety of ideas and dimensions of life, including the spiritual, ritual, wonderful, joyful, tragic, sorrowful, solemn and humorous
- 9.1.15 show children that we are members of a wider community, both local, national and global.
- 9.1.16 encourage a care and concern for others in society and the natural world.
- 9.1.17 show appreciation for the God given gifts and talents of the school community.
- 9.1.18 celebrate the values and worth of the school community.
- 9.1.19 offer opportunities to share worship with parents, governors and members of the local community
- 9.1.20 celebrate special occasions in the Churches year and the life of the community.
- 9.1.21 be clearly planned
- 9.1.22 be regularly monitored and evaluated

The approach to Collective Worship

In acts of worship, we should ensure that:

- 9.2 The school's Church of England Foundation is reflected by the central position of a cross, a candle and an open Bible.
- 9.3 the purpose of the act of worship is clear to all present.
- 9.4 themes are developed effectively on a half-termly, weekly or daily basis.
- 9.5 artefacts, visual aids or other foci of interest are used where appropriate.
- 9.6 opportunities are given for prayer, reflection and quiet.



- 9.7 the occasion engenders an atmosphere conducive to worship.
- 9.8 there is a balance between music, speech and silence.
- 9.9 children are actively involved as much as possible.
- 9.10 subject matter is appropriate to the age and experience of children.
- 9.11 visitors, governors and parents are welcome to attend on a variety of occasions.
- 9.12 links with St Paul's Church and Hereford Cathedral are maintained and strengthened.
- 9.13 children and adults take away something to think about and take into their daily life within school and the community.

10 The Timing of Collective Worship

- 10.1 Collective Worship is given a special period in the school day. However, it should be remembered that:
 - 10.1.1 Collective Worship can take place at any time and in any groupings
 - 10.1.2 Worship can take place in a variety of settings; for example - In the school hall, in a class, outside, in the local church.

11 Our Typical Weekly Timetable for Collective Worship

Day	Activity	Collective worship opportunity
Monday	Whole school worship, one key stage in St Paul's Church led by either the Vicar, Curate or school worship teacher. The other Key stage led by teacher in the hall.	Story of religious substance, prayer, song and quiet reflection time. Pattern will follow Anglican liturgical cycle so that there is a link between worship in church on Sunday and worship in school.



Tuesday	An assembly for the whole school community led by a visitor to school or a teacher.	Story of religious substance, worship song, prayer and quiet reflection time. Our cycle of Gospel Values steers much of the worship themes for the rest of the week. Relevant links are also made with national and world events.
Wednesday	Values-based worship: raising awareness of protected characteristics, SEND and British values	Story, prayer and worship song. <i>We use a very wide range of modern and traditional songs and faith music and highly value worship through music. Sometimes the music for worship is supported by the children's choir and/or staff choir.</i>
Thursday	KS2 Class-based worship can be led by children or staff, and often is linked to the Gospel value or current affairs, Songs and Praise in the hall where the songs are chosen to reflect the Gospel value. Sometimes this will be led by a class, and parents of that class will be invited in to share the worship.	<i>Sometimes the music for worship is supported by the children's choir and/or staff choir.</i>
Friday	Celebration assembly. Whole school assembly to celebrate and reward the outstanding achievements of the children during that week. A prayer that reflects this occasion.	Prayers, music, lots of encouragement and reinforcement of Gospel values.

12 The Planning of Collective Worship

12.1 Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation.



- 12.2 Each half term there is a theme for Collective worship this is usually based on our Gospel Values Cycle.
- 12.3 This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.
- 12.4 All those leading collective worship are asked to plan their act of worship in as much detail as they would any other learning activity. Our Church School Ethos Committee (sub-committee of Governing Body) meets once a term led by the Worship Co-ordinators. These meetings provide an opportunity to review for the next term.
- 12.5 One of the schools Foundation Governors has a role monitoring Collective worship at the school.
- 12.6 We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. We ask children to complete questionnaires on collective worship using the Virtual Learning Environment

13 Evaluation of Collective Worship

- 13.1 Following the planning of worship; the evaluation and recording, needs to be an integral part of the process. Worship is evaluated by those leading the worship, other staff, the pupils for whom the worship is intended or members of the governing body. Continual feedback from any of these groups helps to improve the quality of worship offered to the pupils.



14 Monitoring of Collective Worship

14.1 The monitoring of the planning and provision of worship should be carried out on a regular basis. The foundation governors have a key role in this process to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality. We use the Collective worship section of The National Society's Self-evaluation toolkit as a basis for this process. The Church School Council (Subgroup of Governing Body)



Typical Monday Worship in
St Paul's Church (since 2010)



St Paul's Church of England Primary School
Collective Worship Policy