



**POULTON ST CHAD'S**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

**LOVE LEARNING. LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**

Issue	Date	Author	Approver	Changes	Review
1	19.11.25	Nicole Bitsakaki	Curriculum Committee 27.1.26	Newly written	November 2028

## **Worship Policy**

### **Mission Statement**

At Poulton St Chad's, we believe every child is a gift from God, blessed with their own gifts and talents. It is our mission to ensure children are safe, happy and can thrive. We aim to give our children a love for learning through our engaging curriculum and enrichment opportunities; a love for God within our distinctly Christian setting and a love for one another through our nurturing environment and inclusive relationships.

Every day we are guided by our biblical root: "Let all that you do be done in love." (1 Corinthians 16:14) and by our school motto: LOVE LEARNING. LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

## **Rationale**

This policy reflects the school values and philosophy in relation to collective worship at Poulton St Chad's. It sets out a framework within which teaching and non-teaching staff can operate, and gives guidance on planning and leading acts of worship. This document is intended for all teaching and non-teaching staff with classroom responsibilities and school governors. Copies of this policy will be available on the school website for parents who wish to see it and this can be requested at the school office.

At Poulton St Chad's C of E School, collective worship conforms with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England, as laid down in the Trust Deed. Collective worship contributes to our Mission Statement, to the aims and ethos of the school and to the Christian education we provide. It is at the heart of our school life and both staff and governors see it as an essential part of all children's education.

## **Aims**

- To create an environment in which children and adults have an opportunity to worship.
- To ensure that worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring
- To develop a knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith.
- To introduce children to the worship of the Church of England (eg praise, prayers, links with local church).
- To give children and adults the opportunity to appreciate a quiet time where they can be still and reflective.
- To develop a sense of wonder at creation.
- To explore all that is of value in life (truth, love etc)
- To reflect and express personal feelings.
- To encourage children to have a closer relationship with God and Jesus.
- To show that we are all part of a larger family - the family of God.
- To contribute to the spiritual and moral, social and cultural development of individuals. - to contribute to the general development of children eg singing, leadership, performing etc.
- To develop links with the local Church, enabling all children to take part in church services.
- To learn about other world faiths and how they are similar and different to Christianity

## **Responsibility**

The designated person responsible for Acts of Worship is Mrs Bitsakaki. Her role is to:

- Plan acts of worship
- Keep a record of all worship themes
- Attend INSET on worship
- Lead staff training
- Keep up to date with resources
- Support children in leading worship
- Evaluate and monitor the quality of worship
- Foster links with leaders of: our church, other local churches, Blackburn Cathedral and with leaders of other faiths

## **Organisation**

Daily collective worship is provided for every child. This worship takes place in various groupings - whole school, within a key stage or as a class, usually at 10:25am.

**Monday** – whole school worship lead by SLT

**Tuesday** – whole school worship lead by clergy (often Rev. Martin from St Chad's church)

**Wednesday** – In-class worship led by class teachers, Ethos Group or groups of children

**Thursday** – whole school Prayer and Praise (hymn practice)

**Friday** – whole school celebration worship led by Headteacher with prayers from Ethos Group

Weekly class worship may follow the planned termly theme/s, follow Worship Together from Blackburn Diocese or may look at issues arising in class and/or globally. The time can also be used to prepare materials, which can be included in other acts of worship, or to prepare a class-led act of worship.

Worship usually takes place on the school premises. On special occasions such as Harvest, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and for Year 6 Leaver's Service, this takes place in St Chad's Church. In the Spring Term, Key Stage 2 children attend Junior Church once a month where we attend jointly with the Mother's Union. Staff and any Year 6 children who have been confirmed can choose to receive the Eucharist during the Junior Church service.

Whole school worship is led by the School Leadership Team, Vicar, visitors and/or the children. Each class prepares and leads an act of worship during the year for parents and other classes to watch.

Parents and governors are invited to attend these whole school gatherings. The member of staff leading the act of worship evaluates them each time and incorporates children's responses and reflections.

We aim to create an atmosphere that is conducive to worship. Children are expected to maintain a quiet, respectful manner and on other occasions praise God in a more joyful, yet respectful way. We encourage the children to think and reflect by using background music as children enter/ exit the hall and having a visual focus. To indicate the start of worship a candle is lit and this remains burning during the service and signifies that our worship time is a 'special time'. There is also often an artefact/ object/ quote or image related to the theme of worship to help reinforce the teaching and acts as a focus for reflection. Everyone is given time to think about what they have heard and reflect on its meaning for themselves. General notices may be announced at the end of the act of worship.

We have a designated area in the main entrance, in the hall and in each classroom for religious display and a worship table in each classroom and in the hall. Our outside worship area, The Oasis, is used for whole school worship and for individual classes - led by the class teacher.

Prayer and Praise is considered an important part of our worship. Hymns are linked to the weekly theme and/ or key festivals and children are encouraged to use their voices to enrich worship.

Collective worship is at the heart of the school, and the governors and staff see it as an essential part of our children's education. Prayers and graces are also said before lunch and at the end of school.

### **Parental Rights**

We expect all children to attend worship time and assemblies. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship and school will make alternative

arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request; this right of withdrawal complies with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

### **Time**

Although acts of worship are not designated as curriculum time, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by school. Worship is a way of exploring aspects of the National Curriculum and R.E. and often includes teaching and learning activities. Where these activities occur, they may be counted as teaching time. Daily acts of worship last for 20 minutes.

### **Planning**

Planning takes place on a half termly basis. Themes are based on core Christian values, our vision and alongside this, we observe the Church's Year. Some acts of worship stand alone. This enables us to respond to needs within our school community or respond to needs at local, national or global level.

Content for worship consists of:

- Christian values
- The observance of the Church's Year
- Topical events
- Looking at the world
- Common experiences
- Stories from the Bible, other world faiths and other children's stories
- Hymns and songs from Christian tradition
- Prayers - Exploring ideas about nature of God as Father, Son and Spirit
- Christian Faith and History
- A time for reflection

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years.