

Queen's Park CE / URC Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

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Queen's Park CE/URC Primary School is unique in having a joint foundation of Anglican and Congregational Church (United Reformed Church)

1. Ethos Statement

Recognising its historic foundations, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and the United Reformed Church and in partnership with the churches at parish, diocesan and local level.

The school aims to serve 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 all pupils.

2. Collective Worship and the Law

The law requires all schools to provide a daily, collective act of worship. As a Voluntary Controlled school the worship at Queen's Park is in accordance with our trust deed. (see above). It need not be held at the same

For with God, everything is possible. - Matthew 19:26

time each day. In this school we will meet the requirements of the law in full. Where parents request it, their children will be withdrawn from the collective worship and alternative arrangements will be made for them.

Church schools must fulfil two legal requirements for Collective Worship:

1. A daily Act of Worship for all pupils
2. Collective worship in Church schools must be in accordance with the school's trust deed.

Collective worship in community schools is grounded in the historical past and enshrined in educational law to be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. In Church schools the requirement instead to reflect the Anglican status of the school as expressed in its trust deed liberates those leading collective worship to build on the rich, lived diversity of Anglican tradition and identity. In the same way as worship in churches is aspirational, constantly evolving and being re-imagined there is an expectation of a continuous, dynamic reimagining of what collective worship means in the Church school.

A Daily Act of Worship for All Pupils - The legal requirement for Church schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.

"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."

(The School Standards and Framework Act 1998)

3. Aims of Collective Worship

At Queen's Park CE/URC Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our theologically rooted Christian vision, 'For with God, everything is possible - Matthew 19:26.

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As
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such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly. We have regular contributions to assembly. In accordance with Liverpool Diocesan Guidelines, our school ensures that every child is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.

The spiritual development of our children is a priority across all areas of the curriculum but we know that worship sessions are important to developing children's spirituality because they create a dedicated space for reflection, meaning-making, connection, and growth—key aspects of spiritual development. At Queen's Park CE/URC Primary School, we define spirituality as understanding and connecting with ourselves, others, the world and God, through whom, everything is possible (Matthew 19:26).

We explore spirituality through our Spiritual Capacities (our Spiritual C's) which are curiosity, creativity, compassion, captivation, consciousness, being courageous contributors and having opportunities to contemplate.

1. To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
2. To develop in every child an understanding of the enormity of God's love for them (Ephesians 3:18)
3. To contribute towards spiritual and moral development
4. To enable children to explore their own beliefs;
5. To encourage participation and response;
6. To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
7. To develop an understanding of Christianity and the place of God in our world and our lives
8. To develop an understanding that God is always with us (Psalm 139/Matthew 28:20) Having faith in God, ourselves and each other as we strive to reach our potential Together we believe, achieve and enjoy.
9. To develop in every child an understanding that God sees their heart and loves them even in their failings (1 Samuel 16:7)
10. To develop in the children an appreciation of beauty, awe and wonder.

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All worship sessions, in line with The Church of England's expectations, must be *inclusive, invitational* and *inspiring* for all in attendance.

Inclusive: Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. In the Church school pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. Many pupils and staff in our schools will come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, many pupils will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Pupils should be given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There should be space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching.

Collective worship should not be 'done to' but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. It is recognised that pupils will bring their own experience to worship. Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship. Although part of a national legislative framework, collective worship in the Church school grows out of the local context and out of pupils' experience, including their cultural backgrounds. It should reflect the faith, belief, and ethnic communities the school serves. Collective worship should validate, embrace and celebrate all protected characteristics.

Invitational: Parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There should be no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship should provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. The metaphor of 'warm fires and open doors' captures this idea. The warmth of the fire derives from the clarity and authenticity of the Christian message at its heart. There is no value to an encounter with a watered down, lowest common denominator version of faith. Importantly the door is open, all are welcome to come in and sit as near or as far away from the fire as they feel comfortable. Pupils and adults should always only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way. Prayer should always be accompanied by the option to reflect.

Music and liturgies used in worship should reflect the best of traditional and modern Anglican worship, it should connect with the theme and explore the sacred to educate and engage. Music used should reflect the diverse worship experience of the wider Christian community. Care should be taken to ensure that pupils and adults do not feel compelled to sing strongly confessional lyrics. There should be no assumption of Christian faith in those present.

Inspiring: Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter in a Church school to be inspirational. Worship should be formational and transformational: it should enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It should motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, they should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

There will always be those who are uncomfortable to enter through this open door of worship in our schools and so the Church of England recognises the right of withdrawal from collective worship for those parents or pupils who wish to exercise this option. This, and how to exercise this choice, should be explained fully in the school's collective worship policy and referenced on the school's website.

4. Objectives for Collective Worship

1. Each day all learners will have the opportunity to participate in an occasion of worship and reflection of high quality.
2. A variety of different opportunities will be used to meet our statutory duty.
3. Strong links will be made between spiritual, moral, social and cultural education and religious education.
4. Collective worship will contribute to pupils' experience of awe and wonder.
5. A good ethos will be created for worship enabling children to enjoy music, singing and celebration.
6. Worship will be used to help children understand and experience the meaning of great religious festivals and holy days.
7. Worship will contribute to community cohesion and will promote learners' spiritual, social and moral education.

5. Strategies for Collective Worship

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1. On most occasions, the school will meet corporately (either whole school or in departments) to worship.
2. On some occasions, worship will be held in classrooms at appropriate times during the day and will be led by staff and learners.
3. Learners will have an opportunity say grace before meals and prayers at the end of the school day.
4. Pupils will learn some well-known prayers and hymns and these will be used in worship.
5. Worship will be used for celebration and thanksgiving.
6. Pupils will be given opportunities both to participate in worship and to lead worship.
7. Occasionally, outside speakers will be brought in to address the children and, where appropriate, lead acts of worship.
8. On special occasions, worship will be linked to religious and other festivals, e.g. Christmas, Easter, Harvest and St George's Day.
9. Records of religious worship will be kept to show that the requirements of the law have been met.

6. Organisation of Collective Worship

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Worship Leader	Headteacher (JK)	DHT / SLT / COE Ministry Team	Class Worship led by Worship Monitors	URC Church Ministers and Elders /Staff Rota	Celebration SLT
Time	9:05am-9:20am	9:05am-9:20am	9:05am-9:20am	9:05am-9:20am	2.30-3.00

7. Focus for Collective Worship

There should be a focal point for worship wherever it takes place. In the hall and classrooms the focal point includes:

- a candle
- a cross
- a Bible
- images relating to our Christian values
- prayer books and artefacts

In addition to this, liturgical colours linked to the seasons of the church year are used in the hall and there is an 'interactive values' display that is updated each half term as the 'Living Value' changes.

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If worship is taking place in an alternative setting, such as outside, a focal point should be created.

8. Expectations for Collective Worship and Class Worship

1. A clear focal point. (Worship table including cross, candle and Bible)
2. An opening greeting
3. Lighting a candle
4. A piece of music to listen to or a religious song.
5. A Bible story, text or story linked to the theme.
6. An explanation of the theme
7. A time of prayer and or reflection.
8. Where possible the act of worship should encourage active participation through multi-sensory activities such as drama, video, visual aids, images, music.
9. A record of the worship in the whole school Worship Log
- 10.

These worship areas are monitored by the Ethos council who report to the Ethos and Distinctiveness Committee of the Governing Body.

9. Planning

Each half term we focus on one of our Christian values. We call these our 'Living Values' and we have a special awards ceremony at the end of each half term to celebrate children who have successfully displayed these values.

Each week there is a weekly theme linking to the church season or festival or to the value. The worship themes are planned by the Collective Worship Coordinator and provide staff with some ideas within each weekly theme.



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10. Monitoring

- Children will evaluate worship and fill in the worship evaluation sheets during whole school worships.
- When parents are present for worship, children ask parents to contribute evaluations about the worship.
- The link governor and the Collective Worship co-ordinator also monitor the impact of worship on the life of the school.
- The Ethos Council, which is made up of elected school council representatives and ethos members who have attended training about developing the ethos of a church school, meet monthly to discuss Ethos and Worship. Their responsibilities include observing and monitoring class worship, monitoring of worship areas and monitoring the impact of our Christian values. With the help of the Collective Worship Coordinator, they will also monitor the class worship books termly and provide feedback to the class worship monitors, teachers and report back to the Ethos and Distinctiveness Committee of the Governing Body.