



SOHO PARISH PRIMARY POLICY Collective Worship

Last reviewed:	January 2022	Next review date:	January 2025
Committee responsible:	SAW	Written by:	Louise Ritchie

Aims

Collective Worship at Soho Parish plays a central role in supporting and strengthening our school Christian vision, values and ethos. We value collective worship for bringing together the school community and each day reinforcing the importance of the individual to the school, the wider community and to, above all, to God.

Our Vision

Jesus said: I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness.

John 10:10

Every child deserves to live life to the full.

*Our holistic curriculum promotes emotional, intellectual, physical, spiritual and artistic development. Tailored teaching develops independent, passionate, successful learners. Following Jesus' example, we grow and share our **individual** gifts to build a **community of love, imagination and courage**. Every family is welcome, every child valued.*

Through our vision, children and adults of all religious faiths and those of no religious faith are part of inclusive, inspirational and inspiring acts of Collective Worship.

The care, guidance and support we provide for our children, our high expectations and the excellent educational and inclusive opportunities supports our belief that every child matters. Collective Worship at Soho Parish:

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- b) Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- c) Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God and its language
- d) Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training
- e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

As a Church School, Collective Worship is a vitally important part of the school day. Almost all acts of Collective Worship take place at the start of the school day to bring the school community together as we prepare to embark on our day. Quiet reflection sessions take place termly for each class at St Anne's Church, Soho, led by members of the clergy from St Anne's and St James's Piccadilly.

Planning

Collective Worship plans are formulated by the Worship Committee, which includes Headteacher, governors, Worship Lead and clergy and are discussed with pupils as part of the monitoring and evaluation

schedule. Teachers follow the whole school themes for each term when planning their acts of Collective Worship. A suggested plan for Collective Worship can be found in appendix 1. Each term plans are created collaboratively between staff and clergy using google drive.

The weekly themes reflect the liturgical calendar, the Trinitarian nature of God, Biblical texts, the school Christian vision and Christian values.

All Collective Worship begins with music linked to the assembly theme, the lighting of a candle as a visual representation of Christ as the light of the world. Teaching staff are expected to attend and participate in all acts of Collective Worship.

Values and thoughts shared in Collective Worship permeate throughout daily life at school and are captured in school displays.

Collective Worship usually takes place in school, but we also visit St Anne's Church, Soho, St James's Piccadilly (and other churches/schools) throughout the year. There are many occasions for parents to join us in Collective Worship throughout the school year, including Harvest, Easter and Christmas services at St James's Piccadilly and 'Soho Parish Sundays' each month at St Anne's. Our school vision is a strength in our Collective Worship - parents of different religious faiths and those of no religious faith are all welcome. Everyone is included, everyone belongs.

RE Ambassadors contribute to the leading and writing of prayers in acts of worship each term; these are recorded in class prayer books. We usually structure our assemblies using a liturgy, either linked to a school value or the theme of the assembly (singing or celebration). The Lords prayer and usually another prayer are included in each act of worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring the impact of Collective Worship includes all members of the school community. Staff and clergy are invited to share feedback using the template on the shared google drive and pupils contribute their thoughts and feelings and impact of Collective Worship using their class books. School Council also monitor the quality and impact of Collective Worship in their meetings.

The Headteacher and clergy then use this feedback as part of their evaluation process to plan future acts of Collective Worship to support our school vision.

Inclusion

Adaptations can be made to acts of Collective Worship to ensure everyone is involved and included. Adaptations may include specific visual supports for non-verbal pupils, or art/craft activities to support the weekly theme.

Withdrawal

Collective Worship is a central part of school life at Soho Parish and we encourage everyone to be involved. The strength of our diverse and inclusive school community ensures that everyone is included - those of all faiths and those of none.

For parents who do not wish for their child to be involved in Collective Worship, we ask that they put their concerns in writing to the Headteacher. The letter should cover:

- the elements of Collective Worship the parents object to
- if they would allow the child to be present in Collective Worship, but not take part
- what the child should be doing if they can't be present in Collective Worship