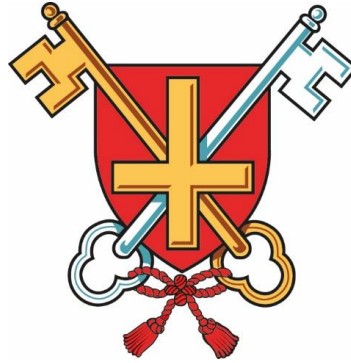




St. Peter's London Docks C of E Primary School

"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be
compassionate and humble"
1 Peter 3:8

Collective Worship Policy

L.I.G.H.T- St Peter's Values

Love	Inspiration	Grace	Hope	Truth
				
Goodness Joy Friendship Collaboration Service Self-discipline Thankfulness	Faith Belief Reverence Creativity Courage Encouragement Ambition	Kindness Forgiveness Peace Humility Compassion Consideration Politeness	Resilience Patience Confidence Perseverance Enthusiasm Faithfulness Diligence	Respect Honesty Justice Stewardship Wisdom Trustworthiness Peacemaker

Collective Worship Policy

Vision Statement

As a Church of England School we seek to provide a Christian education for the children of the parish of St. Peter's London Docks and for those who elect to come to our school. Children are presented with the teachings of the Christian faith as the revelation of God's truth and are encouraged to grow in that faith, respecting the beliefs and cultures of others.

Education is seen as being concerned with excellence in learning and for the spiritual and social growth of children, developing the individual potential of each child to the fullest.

Introduction

In 1856 Fr Charles Lowder was appointed to head St. George's in the East Mission, based in Wapping. Even before the first temporary church was built children were gathered for lessons in reading and writing in the dining room of the Clergy House. Education was the first gift of the Church to the people of Wapping. From the foundation daily prayer, led by Clergy and school staff, was a fundamental element of school life.

Today, as a Church of England Voluntary Aided School, we seek to continue to provide education in a Christian context. Children are presented with the teachings of the Christian faith and encouraged to grow in their faith, respecting the beliefs and cultures of others.

St. Peter's School is intrinsically linked to St. Peter's Parish Church and this link is strongly supported by work of the clergy and by the staff of the school. This relationship forms the basis for our daily act of corporate collective worship.

What is Worship?

At St Peter's London Docks School we believe that worship is:

- A celebration of love for God by believers
- A recognition of and response to the spiritual dimensions of human experience
- A response to things of worth
- An expression of praise and gratitude, of awe and wonder, and of love and compassion
- An invitation to participate or observe

Worship can be achieved through a variety of media including music and hymns, words and scriptures, ritual, movement and drama, and stillness and reflection.

Aims

- to teach children how to worship

- to introduce children to the value of the Bible
- to provide an opportunity for children to speak to God
- to encourage personal spiritual growth
- to develop a moral code
- to encourage participation and response
- to bring the school together for reflection
- to demonstrate the Christian belief that God cares about us and the world
- to teach religious knowledge and to promote religious values

Daily Collective Worship

- We hold a daily act of Collective Worship in our school. This takes in the form of a whole-school assembly (Reception to Yr6).
- These assemblies are conducted in a dignified and respectful way. Children know that they are expected to be quiet and thoughtful and that it is a special time for calm reflection. We create an atmosphere by using appropriate music, candles and prayers. We always say the Lord's Prayer and the School Prayer and conclude each assembly with a hymn.
- We take the themes for our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian Faith reflecting the festivals and events of the Christian calendar.
- Assemblies are led by the Clergy on Thursday mornings and by school staff on other days of the week.
- Once each week there is a celebration assembly when we share some of the work and achievements of the children with the rest of the school.
- All staff are expected to attend and take part in collective worship.

Themes that are introduced in an act of worship may be further developed in RE lessons or in other areas of the curriculum, and so help the child to interpret the experience of school worship.

The Legal Context

Church schools must fulfil three main legal requirements for collective worship:

- Provide an act of worship for all pupils every day
- Ensure that collective worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school

There may be a single act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.

Worship may take place at any time during the school day.

Most acts of worship within a school term must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature.

Pupils (via parents) and teachers have the right to withdraw from collective worship.

Arrangements for collective worship should take account of and be applicable to pupils' ages and aptitudes and the circumstances relating to family background.

What is broadly Christian?

Acts of worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature. Our understanding of 'Broadly Christian' is that through our acts of worship children should come to a greater understanding of those principles, values and characteristics displayed by Jesus throughout his life, in his ministry and teaching and by His own example. These will include:

- compassion
- faith
- trust
- conviction
- mercy
- individual and corporate responsibility
- self-discipline
- co-operation
- integrity
- self-sacrifice
- forgiveness
- humility
- self knowledge
- tolerance
- perseverance
- respect
- honesty

School Mass

- Every week the children attend school mass, as they have done for over 150 years
- School Mass is led by the Parish Priest with some of the children in years 5 & 6 acting as servers on a rota basis
- Parents are always invited to attend school mass with their children

The contribution of worship to spiritual, social, moral and cultural Development

The OFSTED Framework for Inspection (2019) describes these four areas as follows:

Spiritual Development of pupils is shown by their ability to be reflective about their own beliefs (religious or otherwise) and perspective on life.

Social Development of pupils is shown by their use of a range of social skills in different contexts, for example working and socialising with other pupils, including those from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.

Moral Development of pupils is shown by their ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong and to readily apply this understanding in their own lives, recognise legal boundaries and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England.

Cultural Development of pupils is shown by their understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others.

Through our acts of worship, a very significant contribution can be made to the development of these areas for all our children

Right of Withdrawal

- ✓ We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, under Section 25 of the 1944 Education Act parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education and collective worship. Parents are asked to put this request in writing but do not have to explain or give reasons for their decision.
- ✓ The school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of children who withdraw from collective worship.
- ✓ A record of children who withdraw will be maintained by the school.

Monitoring & Review

- ✓ It is the role of the Chair of governors and Head teacher to monitor the Worship policy. They will report to the full Governing Body on any policy changes or reviews that take place.