



Worship Policy

January 2017

St John's C of E (Controlled) School	
SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR POLICY	
Policy Type – Statutory/Non-Statutory	Review Frequency - BIENNIAL
Review Date _____	Next Review Date _____
Link Governor <u>D. WARD</u>	Governor Signature <u>[Signature]</u>
Headteacher <u>[Signature]</u>	



WORSHIP POLICY

Vision statement

*Imagine a place where all are equal and all are different,
living compassionately, learning together,
embracing challenges, building tolerance and resilience,
standing strong and making a positive difference in God's amazing world.*

ALL EQUAL, ALL DIFFERENT, LEARNING TOGETHER IN GOD'S WORLD

At St John's School our acts of worship are a very important part of our lives together and take place in line with beliefs and practices of the Church of England. Acts of worship take place in the school hall and in classrooms as well as St John's Church with which we have a close relationship.

1. Aims

- School worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils, as appropriate to their ages and aptitudes.
- To enable children to develop spiritually through the practice of personal reflection.
- To provide opportunities to celebrate the moral Christian values of compassion, forgiveness, tolerance and trust which underpin our school life.
- To familiarise children with the worship of the Church of England.

2. School Worship Organisation

- This takes place daily and is organised by the worship co-ordinator in conjunction with the RE co-ordinator, incumbent and worship committee, an overview for the term is displayed in the staff room and school hall.

3. The Setting for School Worship

- Care is taken to ensure we establish a calm, appropriate setting for our worship. Music is played as the children enter and leave the meeting place and symbolic artefacts and visual aids are often used.
- A worship board, interactive display and prayer station are kept permanently in the school hall. This gives the opportunity to revisit themes and values as well as providing areas of thought for forthcoming worship. Pupils are encouraged to add

St. John's CE Primary School, Bayham Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3XD T: 01732 453944 F: 01732 740552



their thoughts to the prayer station as they wish. Each class is timetabled termly to visit the station for a time of reflection and personal prayer.

- The reflection garden gives older pupils space and opportunity for personal reflection. The vicar and curate make themselves available to join reflection weekly.
- Key stage 1 have a prayer station for personal reflection in their shared area.

4. Content of School Worship

- The worship co-ordinator with the incumbent/RE co-ordinator and worship committee plan a thematic programme with a strong Christian content which draws on bible teaching, covers the major Christian festivals and is appropriate to the intellectual and emotional needs of the children. This is implemented by the head teacher and all staff as well as the vicar and curate of St John's (see attachment) and year 6 worship leaders.
- The pattern of collective worship includes prayer, reflection, music, and pupil participation, visual and oral stimuli. A variety of resources are used to engage and stimulate all members of the school community.
- There is a strong global perspective, which is the focus for some acts of worship. Charitable giving often arises from worship stimuli.
- Each class annually prepares an act of worship, drawing upon knowledge and understanding developed through RE.
- Family and members of the community are invited to attend class Acts of Worship and special services held in the church at Harvest, Christmas, Mother's Day, Easter and the Leavers Services. The rector and curate lead weekly worship. School Mass is celebrated three times a year at St John's Church with years 2 – 6.
- The worship co-ordinator Mrs Sally Quirk, is supported in her work by the RE co-ordinator, Mrs Liddy Clark, the incumbent, chairman of Governors and foundation Governors.

5. Participation and Withdrawal

- Although parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from the daily Act of Worship, they are encouraged to discuss this fully with the Headteacher before reaching a decision. Sensitivity to the beliefs of other faiths is reflected.
- As a Church school, worship plays a central part in our school life and is important educationally for pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development.