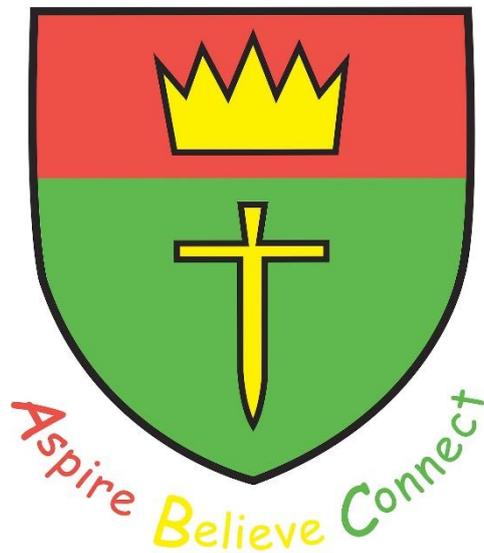
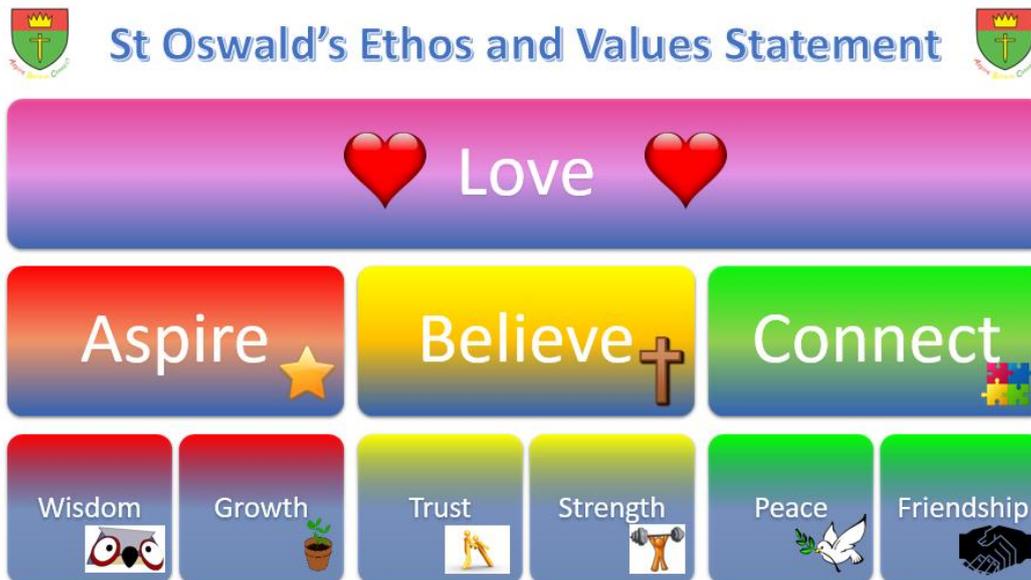


Collective Worship Policy



St Oswald's Church of England Primary School

Ethos and Values Statement



Background

Our Ethos and Values Statement is an easy to understand model of for collective worship in St Oswald's. Children in our school know that love is the most important value of all, in line with the new command that Jesus gave us to love one another, which is why this is placed above all in our statement.

Mission Statement

Sitting below love lies our school's mission statement: *Aspire, Believe, Connect*. As easy as A, B, C, this statement is easy to remember and most importantly represents what we want our children to do in every aspect of their worship, education and lives.

Core Christian Values

The mission statement is underpinned by six core Christian values that each link to one aspect of *Aspire, Believe, Connect*. As children aspire to be the best they can be in every way, they will grow in wisdom. In order to believe in themselves and develop their own beliefs about the world around them, our children are taught about the importance of trust and strength on their journey. We also believe in the values of peace and friendship in helping us to connect with those around us. The values were chosen from the main fifteen Core Christian Values (<http://www.christianvalues4schools.org.uk>), with the exception of "growth"

which was provided as a source of reflection from Bishop Paul in his visit to St Oswald's CE VA Primary and in his inauguration speech.

Planning

Themes

The Collective Worship themes in St Oswald's are planned in line with the Ethos and Values Statement by the Collective Worship coordinator and Head Teacher. All weekly themes will link into *Aspire, Believe or Connect* and one of the Core Christian values depending on the time of year, creating a journey through the year for all those within the St Oswald's worshipping community. The context of each week is crucial; this is sometimes determined by the time of year (theme fitting around the calendar context) or can alternatively be a way of making a given Bible story relevant and purposeful to the children of St Oswald's (contextualising the theme). Themes are decided upon on a termly basis rather than a yearly basis so that the impact of worship in one term can be responded to in the following term, which is in line with learning and teaching at St Oswald's.

Verses of the Week

Verses are chosen in line with weekly themes. As far as possible, these verses should be applicable to the children's lives and do not need to be taken from the same place in the Bible as the focus Bible story for that week, for instance. The verse is displayed in the main hall alongside the weekly theme and this board is updated on a weekly basis.

Whole-school worship

Whole-school worship sessions are planned by the Head Teacher, who will plan in line with the weekly theme and verse of the week. These plans are made available to all staff in advance of the worship session itself.

Weekly worship sessions

Whole-school worship

Every Monday morning, the Head Teacher introduces the theme of the week to the whole school and relates this to the school's Ethos and Values Statement. Staff attend the worship session, which supports them in planning and delivering

the rest of the weeks content and gives them an opportunity to develop their own spirituality. In the event of the Head Teacher being unable to deliver this session, then it is delivered (and in some cases planned) by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator.

Weekly task sessions

At the end of whole-school worship sessions, KS1 and KS2 tasks are introduced to the children. Children will then complete these tasks in their own classes the following day in worship sessions that are led by class teachers. The reverend of St Oswald's Church spends one weekly task session per half-term with each class across the school on a timetabled basis.

REflective worship

REflection sessions allow children across the school a free choice of how they wish to reflect on the weekly theme. Once reminded of the theme and verse of the week by their class teacher, children will reflect in their chosen way, drawing on what they learned during whole-school and weekly task worship sessions. Children are encouraged to add reflections of all types to their class REflection Zone. Classes are also timetabled in to visit the REflection Zone HQ during this session, where again they can complete reflections but this time in a unique, out-of-class environment.

Praise through Music worship sessions

Worship through music happens in two different ways, depending upon the time of year. When important events on the church calendar are approached, such as Harvest, Christingle, Christmas and Easter, then children are brought together for whole-school singing in preparation for those upcoming church services. At other times (at least once per term), music workshops are run by class teachers. These workshops give children the opportunity to engage with weekly themes through music in a variety of ways other than simply singing, such as through composition, digital music, playing instruments and writing parodies. All of these tasks will be tied closely in with the school's Ethos and Values Statement and crucially the relevant core Christian value for that time of year. For instance, in Autumn term, children may be creating songs based upon wisdom. Songs created can be based upon Biblical stories and principles and include references to relevant key verses and worship themes, or may be more of a personal reflection on these ideas.

Praise and Celebration Worship

Every Friday morning, we celebrate the achievements of children both in and out of school. All children and staff are present at these sessions, with parents and carers being invited along each week, too. Each meeting begins and ends with a time of worship, during which the weekly theme will be revisited and children may be given the opportunity to share tasks, reflections and pieces of music that they have worked on across the week. The St Oswald's worshipping community is at its strongest numerically on a Friday morning and staff, parents and carers are encouraged to take an active part through carefully prepared all-age worship, planned and delivered by the Collective Worship coordinator.

Evidencing collective worship work

Each cohort in St Oswald's has a blue file. Each week, teachers will add one example of a weekly task and one example of a reflection. Examples of work completed in praise through music sessions, photographs taken during sessions and any further work will also be added on a termly basis. This work is not to be marked, as this is not an assessment file, but rather a portfolio of evidence that children are engaging in collective worship sessions.

Displays

The main Collective Worship displays are in the hall. These are updated on a termly basis and are in line with worship themes. Each display includes the verse of the week for the relevant theme that the board depicts and shows children's reflections and work from worship sessions. The first display on entrance to the school, entitled *Aspire, Believe, Connect*, introduces visitors immediately to what our school is all about, with our Ethos and Values Statement at the very heart of this board, just as it is at the heart of our school. All classrooms have a REflection Zone in which work completed in Collective Worship sessions (along with RE lessons) can be shown.

Church services

There are four main church services across the year. These are: Harvest Festival, Christingle Service, Christmas Nativity & Singalong and Easter. These are prepared by the Collective Worship co-ordinator and each of these will involve children from across the whole school. Relevant aspects of the Ethos and Values Statement feed directly into these services through the strategic planning of worship themes around the Christian calendar. The reverend of St Oswald's

Church will introduce the service and deliver a brief, age-appropriate message that is aimed at the children. Parents and carers are invited along to each of these services. The children themselves hold each of these services together, planning and writing their own parts, and all who attend are encouraged to engage with Bible readings by following along in contemporary versions, such as the Minecraft Bible.

Home-learning

At St Oswald's, we provide opportunities for pupils to complete family projects linked to collective worship themes. These often centre on fundraising for charities of the children's choice. It is important to note that these projects are optional and are not part of children's compulsory homework.

Role of the Co-ordinator

There is a named co-ordinator responsible for co-ordinating the delivery of Collective Worship throughout the school. Their role is to:

- provide support, advice and resources to members of staff;
- monitor the delivery of Collective Worship sessions;
- attend relevant training and support staff through the delivery of training sessions;
- set the new worship themes prior to the beginning of each new term;
- communicate rationale of worship themes clearly to the Headteacher in order to aid delivery of whole-school worship sessions.

Monitoring

Collective Worship sessions are monitored across the year by the Collective Worship co-ordinator. Whole-school worship observations are completed on a termly basis, after which the co-ordinator and the Head Teacher will discuss strengths and areas to develop with a view to moving forwards. Worship files are taken in by the co-ordinator across the year, while learning walks during worship sessions also provide an opportunity for the Collective Worship co-ordinator and Head Teacher to monitor worship sessions across the school.

Collective Worship non-negotiables

These are set by the Collective Worship co-ordinator and head teacher and are to be adhered to by all who lead worship sessions.

Educational Visits and Visitors in School

Visitors from all walks of life will come into the school across the year and deliver worship sessions to the children. These visits are strategically planned in line with worship themes across the year. Worship visits to places outside of school are encouraged in order to challenge children's views that worship only happens within four walls, in a church or inside school.

Equal Opportunities

Every child is entitled to be taught Collective Worship regardless of their age, culture, gender, background or special need or disability. Collective Worship develops a balanced view of the multi-cultural society which we live in without compromising the faith, non-faith or cultural background of any pupil.

Role of Stakeholders in Policy

All stakeholders have a role to play in our policy. On agreement of the expectations, staff are to ensure that the correct units are followed when planning and delivering lessons and that the RE Ladder of Achievement is at the forefront of their minds during the ongoing assessment process. Governors have a responsibility to support and uphold our school's Ethos and Values Statement. Parents are encouraged to further their understanding of the statement and also embrace home learning projects related to RE.

Written by: Andrew Richardson

Signed:

Date completed: 23rd March 2017

Effective date: 24th April 2017

Date of review: 24th April 2019