



Collective Worship Policy

Date adopted	March 2017	Owner	Governors
Last reviewed	March 2017	Review cycle	Three Years



Introduction

Our Collective Worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our schools, reaffirms our values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship will reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

Worship in our schools

- Should, at its simplest, create a time and space where we can come together and reflect.
- Uses and promotes 'Our Values Jigsaw' based on Christian Values and the life of Christ.
- Is broadly based on Christian texts and themes relating religious scripture to our own lives and the lives of others.
- Is inspirational and inclusive, engaging to all pupils and adults impacting on the lives of the whole school community.
- Will reflect the Christian liturgical year and will enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Is central in importance to the life of our school community, which is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world.
- Will foster strong links with the wider Christian community within the parish and beyond.
- Develops an understanding of Anglican traditions and the practice of the local parish church.
- Celebrates the God given gifts and talents of individuals and the whole school community.
- Develops pupil's sense of self-worth and provides opportunities to celebrate achievements.
- Makes a significant contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all members of the school community.
- Considers the beliefs and values of others, especially those within the school community.
- Raises aspirations of individuals and the school community.
- Provides opportunities for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate collective worship.
- Invites clergy of the parish, other lay members of the parish and other Christian leaders in the community to lead regular worship.

How we achieve this/our aims

We aim to promote collective acts of worship, which are rich, meaningful experiences that are appropriate and significant to the pupil's needs, age, development and interest, by:

- Creating a sense of occasion and reverence following the four central attributes of worship: Gather, Engage, Respond, and Send.
- Planning and linking themes which focus on a particular idea/concept, ie. the liturgical year: RE curriculum, festivals and celebrations within Christian and other faith traditions, our Christian values and celebrating achievements, good work and behaviour.

- Using a wide range of resources to engage children’s interest.
- Providing opportunities for pupils to reflect, contemplating on their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs, and how these are lived out in their behaviour and the behaviour of others.
- Encouraging children to participate and experience different styles of worship, which will include prayer, praise, music, opportunity for self-reflection, rituals, and become familiar with the language of worship, Biblical readings and liturgy.
- Prayer is a central part of our worship and we use a variety of prayers - personal silent prayer, personal shared prayers, collective prayers and writing prayers.
- Involving pupils and members of the wider community to participate in collective worship and activities within the parish.
- Presenting and creating displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.

Central attributes of an act of worship

The Schools will endeavour to fulfil the legal requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act.

During collective worship, whether in the hall, classroom or outside, we will apply the following ‘central attributes’ of worship:

Gathering	Making special and significant this part of the day through appropriate symbol and ceremony
Engaging	Using the best available techniques to stimulate interest in the content
Responding	Ensuring there is time and opportunity for individual, group reflection and thought, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways
Sending	Summarising the worship in a meaningful short message used to create an opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas covered and to conclude the worship

During the collective worship there will be a time for response and reflection, to ponder on a question, statement or thought. This may also be reflected in a prayer, offered spontaneously by a pupil or adult, read out or recited. This prayer can be displayed and used in class and school reflective areas so that:

- Children understand the nature and purpose of prayer.
- Children understand the part that prayer may play in their lives and the life of the school community.
- Prayer contributes to the spiritual development of individuals and the whole school community.

There will also be appropriate opportunities for prayer and other worship activities, including reflection, outside of collective worship.

Each class has a ‘reflective area’ to engage and promote individual pupils and adults, as well as designated reflection spaces around the schools. These spaces are linked to our ‘Values Jigsaw’ and whole school themes for collective worship.

Management and organisation of resources

Worship will be planned for on a half-termly basis following the same themes across the schools. Input and feedback from pupils, staff and governors will be sought, where appropriate, to develop and enhance the quality and provision of worship in our schools.

Legal status of collective worship

All maintained schools in England must provide a daily act of collective worship. In a Church of England School, worship must be in line with the trust deed of the school and will reflect the traditions of the Church of England, ie. the Anglican tradition.

Right to withdraw pupils

We aim to ensure that collective worship is meaningful and relevant for all children and staff, for those with a faith background and those with none. Our schools exert no pressure on children to become worshipping Christians, or to participate actively in any activity that will compromise their own family faith or lack of faith. However, Christian values are built into our ethos and are reflected in the themes of our worship. Should parents wish to exercise their right to withdraw their child from collective worship, they should inform the Executive Head Teacher in writing.

Responsibilities

The expectation within our church schools is for all staff to view daily collective worship as an important part of their own well-being and spiritual development as human beings. The schools will endeavour to timetable staff so that all have an opportunity to attend regularly.

The expectation will be that teaching staff will participate in and lead collective worship.

Monitoring and evaluation

Evaluation strategies used by staff for assessing the outcomes of collective worship are:

- observation of the children's interest level and attentiveness;
- feedback from pupils, parents and visitors;
- observation of the children's general behaviour in and around the schools, and to one another;
- a focused visit by the Foundation Governors and formal evaluation of collective worship by staff.