



Collective Worship Policy

*But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."
Luke 18:16*

Policy Statement

At Packington Church of England Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement.

TOGETHER WE CAN ACHIEVE MORE - with Jesus as our guiding light!

Collective Worship supports and reinforces the aims of Packington Church of England Primary School, valuing all God's children equally.

"At Packington Church of England Primary School we are learning to succeed and achieve our full potential together"

The ethos of the school is reflected in and expressed through our Collective Worship; it derives from the Christian tradition and promotes our beliefs and Christian values of friendship, endurance, peace, forgiveness, thankfulness, trust, compassion and justice, which are set out, clearly, in the School Prospectus. It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Collective Worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school. It provides a creative and positive time when children meet together with members of staff in a calm and peaceful atmosphere. This enhances the day. All who are present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is regarded as 'quality' time and represents something special or separate from ordinary school routine.

Rationale

Collective Worship takes place in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. This requires worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and will, therefore, be fundamentally Christian in character. The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum, which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society.

Collective Worship at Packington Church of England Primary School:-

- Is an important part of school life and a central part of the school day.
- Is inspirational and inclusive to all.
- Fosters a respect for God.
- Has a strong focus on the person of Jesus Christ and the central position he occupies in the Christian faith.

- Gives children and adults the opportunity to enter into experiences which lie at the heart of religion. These experiences help them to learn about Christian worship and provide a framework for later understanding.
- Enables all members of the school community to experience different Christian traditions and develop a strong understanding about the seasons of the Church's year and Christian festivals.
- Enables pupils and adults to understand the Trinitarian nature of God.
- Regularly includes biblical materials and Christian teachings.
- Encourages pupils and adults to consider fundamental questions about the purpose of being and about moral and ethical stances.
- Provides opportunities for pupils and adults to think about how the school's core Christian values impact on their own lives.
- Provides a setting for those who so wish to participate in religious worship.
- allows us to learn and celebrate values we hold to be important.
- Brings children and staff together, enabling them to experience the security of belonging to a community with an identity of its own.
- Is the source of much interesting and thought provoking knowledge.
- Offers pleasurable expression through literature, art, music and drama.
- Makes an important, though not exclusive, contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Fosters an understanding of issues and needs within the wider world.
- Provides an opportunity for reflection and spirituality.
- Encourages pupils and adults to understand the value of personal prayer.
- Encourages pupils to contribute confidently to prayer in worship.
- Challenges pupils to take responsibility for their own conduct and actions
- Engages all learners and provides them with opportunities to participate, plan and lead acts of worship.

Definitions

Worship: can be defined as paying homage to (revering) that which is of worth ("Worship.") Religious Worship is the acknowledgement of 'worth' which is attributable to a supreme being. Worth can also be registered in other people and in values and attitudes.

School Assembly: is a gathering of the school community; it is often used to celebrate and focus on the life and values of the community itself.

Corporate Worship: is a gathering of a body ('corpus') of believers and pre-supposes a particular religious' commitment.

Collective Worship: is a gathering of a 'collection' of people of diverse, religious, agnostic and non-religious backgrounds and does not pre-suppose any particular religious commitment.

NB: We note that Collective Worship and Assembly are not one and the same thing. They are, in essence, different from each other, but in practice they often overlap.

The following principles guide our approach to Collective Worship at Packington Church of England Primary School.

It should:-

- have a sense of occasion.
- provide experiences within which pupils' (and adults) spiritual development may flourish.
- be a means of expressing the ethos and values of the school.
- be educational and should contribute to the Religious Education of all pupils.
- be shaped to the needs of the school, (time, place, content, style etc.)

- provide a varied pattern of worship to broaden pupils' experience of its different forms.
- recognise that the school includes children and adults from different religious and non-religious backgrounds
- provide a setting in which the integrity of all those present is maintained but in which everyone finds something positive for themselves

During Collective Worship some will be worshipping and some will be experiencing something approaching worship; others will be finding out what it is like to worship by being with those who are.

Objectives

The objectives of Collective Worship are to:-

- affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God.
- introduce pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement and prayer.
- create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere when meeting together, conducive to worship. This includes the manner of entry and exit.
- encourage, in children, a thoughtful and reflective attitude.
- help pupils experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness.
- enable pupils to use silence for reflection and contemplation.
- raise pupil's curiosity about the ultimate mysteries of life.
- enable pupils to learn about and consider in depth Christian teaching, Christian festivals and biblical material.
- help pupils appreciate that we are 'stewards' of God's world.
- enable pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to those of others.
- enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- guide children towards the spiritual and religious options open to them.
- help children distinguish between right and wrong.
- affirm pupils' personal worth and responsibility.
- To enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God and to the community and to respect the integrity of each individual as a child of God
- celebrate individual and collective achievements.
- develop a sense of community within the school.
- celebrate religious festivals and special occasions with specified worship.

Management Of Collective Worship

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the Foundation of the school is honoured and that the worship policy is firmly based upon the intentions set down in the Trust Deed.
- Ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate Governor.

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator has responsibility for managing the worship on a day to day basis, ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with. The co-ordinator also keeps in touch with national developments in school worship and acts in an advisory capacity, supporting colleagues.

Monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship is an on-going process carried out on a daily, weekly and termly basis so that effective review can take place. Pupils are involved in formally monitoring collective worship through the use of a monitoring template. These are predominantly completed 3 to 4 times a week. The Collective Worship Co-ordinator collates

pupil responses to identify strengths and weaknesses and follows these up with staff to quickly put in place actions for improvement. Formal monitoring and evaluation is carried out by staff and the Collective Worship Co-ordinator. Governors also visit Collective Worship and carry out monitoring activities using observation and interviews to gather information. The school has developed templates to support monitoring and evaluation.

At least once a term Foundation Governors meet with the Head Teacher or senior staff to discuss monitoring and evaluation, the impact of any actions and next steps. Strengths and weaknesses are discussed and areas identified for improvement are included in the school improvement plan

The School Improvement Plan includes a development area for improving Collective Worship. Areas for improvement are identified through monitoring and review and self-evaluation using the SIAMS grade descriptors

Organisation

Daily acts of Collective Worship take place in the school hall following an agreed timetable which is displayed on the staff notice board. Variations to the timetable may occur when necessary.

The school uses the themes, planning, resources and documentation made available by the Diocese when planning the focus of Collective Worship, but may also supplement them to address current issues or to develop the school's Christian values. The structure of Collective Worship may include music, a hymn or song of praise, a story or talk, a film or powerpoint, a reading from the Bible, a period of reflection, pupil participation, a prayer, the Lord's Prayer, the weekly prayer, the children's personal prayers and a regular reminder of the current focus. Pupil's may also plan and lead their own worship.

Monday:	Whole School	C Price	Story/talk based on appropriate theme
Tuesday	Whole School	Rota *	Story/talk based on appropriate theme
Wednesday:	Whole School	F Rogers	Hymn Singing/Reflection / Prayer board
Thursday:	Whole School	Rota *	Story/talk based on appropriate theme
Friday:	Whole School Invitation to parents/relatives & friends of children, school governors	Headteacher	Growing and Glowing Time - Celebrating Achievement

*A staff rota is in operation to cover Collective Worship on a Tuesday and Thursday

Approximately once a month children and staff share in the whole School's Collective Worship in Holy Rood Church, Packington.

We welcome the clergy and clergy representatives from the wider ecumenical church to share in our Collective Worship.

All staff regularly attend Collective Worship and have the opportunity to join in with activities, reflection and the whole school prayer.

Visitors and outside speakers are invited to share their experiences at our worship on a regular basis. Collective worship is regularly led by the incumbent, Ashby Youth for Christ and the Open the Book Teams from the parish and the Methodist Church in Ashby.

Elements Of Worship

"There are times when worship will be quiet, contemplative and serene and others when laughter, music and dance will be the appropriate form of expression."

Atmosphere is all-important in creating the right foundation for Collective Worship. Quiet, orderly behaviour and respectful attitudes on entering, leaving and throughout the worship are expected. Staff enhance the atmosphere by their presence and participation. A covered table with a cross from Iona, a display of children's personal prayers and a candle help to set the scene. Children are seated in the hall facing Holy Rood Church and are regularly reminded of the beauty seen through the windows of our school building. Pupils sit in their Houses and friendship groups. A candle with a ribbon reflecting the colour of the liturgical season is lit on a daily basis. The candle has three wicks and this is used to help the children understand the Trinitarian nature of God. The school community affirm this by saying out loud the words 'God the Father, the son; Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Three flames, one light.' As the candle is lit by the worship leader.

At the front of the hall there is a display board for Collective Worship. This includes the theme of the week, the music being used to gather for worship, a weekly prayer and a working wall to display written or visual prompts for the week.

Music is played at the beginning and end of the assembly. One piece is generally selected each week by a member of staff or by the children appropriate to the theme or the overriding theme of the term. Pupils' attention is drawn to it each day and a simple explanation/description may be given.

Film, Powerpoint and E resources may also be used. A reflective film may be used as pupils enter the hall to set the scene and create the appropriate atmosphere for the theme or focus of the worship.

Stories and talks are carefully chosen to fulfil the objectives of Collective Worship. Stories of a religious or secular nature may be used whilst personal anecdote from pupils, teachers and visitors is effective in expressing that which is important in our own lives. Particular emphasis is laid upon helping children to understand themselves better, to develop empathy and to face up to moral issues.

Songs are chosen from a wide variety of traditional and modern hymns and choruses. One is used at each worship, relative to the theme and children are invited to make their own choice. Some are learned by heart and actions are incorporated. Hymns and songs create the opportunity for children to express thoughts and feelings that are difficult to put into words; and they provide a real source of pleasure. A hymn book or song sheet is given to all children who can follow the words without too much difficulty.

Prayer and reflection are the most personal part of an act of worship. Collective Worship in school should provide opportunities for children to be taken to the threshold of prayer, and to cross it if they wish, in a way that respects the integrity of all present. Participation in prayer can never be imposed but we stress the need for stillness, reflection and respect for others. Silence, written prayers, impromptu prayers, The Lord's Prayer and children's prayers may be used. A candle is lit and provides a focus for pupils' thoughts. Reflection and thinking time are given some direction by the leader in order to concentrate pupils' response.

Whole school prayers are said three times a day with children and staff participating in prayers in Collective Worship, in Grace before lunch and at the end of the day. Each class has a battery operated candle and pupils will have the responsibility to 'light' the candle before the prayer is said.

Scripture sentences and texts may be quoted from the Bible and, where appropriate, from sacred books and writings of other world faiths.

Presentation sets the tone within the act of worship. In keeping with the reverent atmosphere, use is also made of visual aids, artefacts, drama, demonstration, power point, DVD and video clips.

Content

The school uses the themes, planning, resources and documentation made available by the Diocese for Collective Worship.

Planning for Collective Worship is the responsibility of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship, with support from the RE Co-ordinator. The Collective Worship Policy is approved by the Headteacher and ratified by the Governing Body. Suggestions and requests from staff and governors are welcomed. Members of staff and children collaborate in the selection of songs/hymns for special occasions. Opportunities are also provided for pupils to plan and lead worship.

Links with R.E. and the Curriculum are incorporated wherever possible. Common themes link R.E. and Collective Worship. The apt choice of story can link worship with current topic work e.g. 'Caring' = 'Florence Nightingale' = 'Victorians'. Collective Worship can be followed up in the classroom by further discussion and emphasis throughout the day. There is often an overlap between Collective Worship and Personal and Social Education.

Dedicated RE themed weeks take place at least once a term and are used to creatively teach R.E in a cross-curricular way and these often link to Collective Worship.

N.B. No worship programme can ever be entirely pre-planned. There will always be the spontaneous moment or occasion when it is important, spiritually, to focus on the immediate, so that pupils become aware of how the spiritual dimension transcends all our experience.

Resources

Staff, pupils, visiting speakers.
Cross and stand, Flowers, Cloth,
Candle, Prayer board, ribbon.
Selection of worship materials for teachers

Selection of religious artifacts
Teachers' own personal resources
The Diocese website and other links
Selection of assembly/ worship song books

Music – e.g. classical, folk, world
Powerpoint presentations
Holy Rood Church
Projector and screen
Lollipop sticks to choose friendship
Groups to participate in worship

Piano/CD/ipod, ipad
Visiting Theatre Companies

Records and Assessment

Each teacher has a copy of the themes for Collective Worship.
Monitoring and pupil monitoring sheets are kept by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator.
Assessment of Collective Worship is carried out jointly by the Head Teacher, Foundation Governors and staff through:-

- checking that practice matches aims and objectives.
- observation of childrens' attentiveness and level of interest.
- classroom feedback from pupils, both written and verbal.
- comments from parents, visitors and governors.
- the extent of the influence upon pupils' attitude and behaviour throughout the school day.
- self-evaluation/comment by the teacher.

- Staff meetings are used for discussion and the update of information as and when necessary.

Equal Opportunities

All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. The school prospectus informs parents of their right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship should they wish on religious grounds. Such pupils are fully supervised in another part of the school.

Multiculturalism

A variety of multicultural material is available throughout the school. Stories are shared and festivals celebrated. Respect, tolerance and understanding of other religions and beliefs is encouraged.

Special Assemblies and Visitors

Within a Christian context, special assemblies are usually held in church for Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Mothering Sunday, Easter and End of the School Year. For some of these occasions children and staff join with members of the congregations of Holy Rood Church. Parents, Governors and visitors are especially welcome to attend. We have regular visits from members of the wider community e.g. Rev. Vivien Elphick, the curate, Open the Book and Ashby Youth for Christ as well as outside speakers from charitable organizations e.g. Leics & Rutland Air Ambulance.

Role of Co-Ordinator

- To write the school's policy for Collective Worship in consultation with the RE Co-ordinator.
- To ensure that all staff are aware of and use the policy document.
- To review the policy on a regular basis.
- To plan and oversee an overall balanced programme of worship.
- To keep a Worship record.
- To be responsible for the rota of worship leaders.
- To involve colleagues, pupils and visitors in worship.
- To advise on planning, ideas and resources.
- To be responsible for supporting pupils in planning and delivering their own worship.
- To be responsible for ordering, maintaining and displaying resources.
- To administer the budget for Collective Worship.
- To ensure that Collective Worship maintains a high profile in the School Improvement Plan.
- To monitor and evaluate, with others, Collective Worship in all its forms.
- To report to staff and governors.
- To arrange INSET for staff where appropriate.
- To keep up to date with recent publications, attend Diocesan training and disseminate information and feedback to staff.
- To liaise with the incumbent, governing body and Diocesan officers on matters relating to Collective Worship.

REVIEW

The Governing Body will review this policy, formally, three years from the date of its adoption. Informal Review may be necessary in the interim and should take place as and when required.

<p>This Policy has been formally adopted by the Governing Body of Packington School. It will be reviewed by the Governors, the Head Teacher and the Collective Worship Co-ordinator in conjunction with all staff two years from the date of the signature below.</p>

Signed _____ Date _____ Chair of Governors