



Barnabas Oley School

Collective Worship Policy

Version: 4.0

Reviewed: June 2018

Approved: C Jarvis (Curriculum Chair)

Revision History

Version	Author	Summary	Review Date	Next Review
1.0		Original Hard Copy (Updated from Spring 1997)	Jan 2000	
1.0		Copied from hard copy onto disc	09/12/05	
2.0	R Smith	Combination of Worship and Assemblies Policies	Sept 2011	Sept 2014
3.0	R Fogg	Updated to latest guidance	June 2013	
3.0	J Hodges	No changes	June 2015	June 2018
4.0	C Jarvis	Minor amendments	June 2018	June 2020

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1 Introduction

As a Church school, part of the Christian community, we want to worship. We want our children to have the opportunity to learn to worship and to grow in their understanding of God and of themselves. Worship in our school is not simply a statutory duty. Christians believe that each human is made in the image of God and that worship is a vital factor in this image becoming more real and meaningful.

We believe that, at its heart, Collective Worship should provide opportunity for pupils and staff to come together, to sing and pray, to share and communicate their feelings with one another and to God. It should take them beyond themselves towards an encounter with the living God and should prove to be an exciting time for all of them.

2 The legal requirements

We comply with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on "each school day take part in an act of Collective Worship".
- The daily act of Collective Worship in a church school should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government, and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character.
- For Collective Worship, pupils can be grouped in various ways: whole school, according to age, or in groups (or a combination of groups) the school uses at other times. Pupils cannot be put into special groups just for Collective Worship.
- Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises but all church schools are able to hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
- Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship rests with the Governors in consultation with the Headteacher. Foundation Governors have a particular responsibility because they are appointed for "the purpose of securing, as far as is practicable, that the character of the school as a voluntary school is preserved and developed, and, in particular, that the worship is conducted in accordance with the provisions of any trust deed. The Headteacher has a responsibility to ensure that all arrangements for Collective Worship are secured.

3 Anglican faith and practice

As required therefore in C of E schools, we seek to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England which traditionally is has the following traits. It is:

- **Biblical** – so we use the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning and make pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other verses of scripture. We also introduce them to a variety of well-known prayers - many of which express the central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.

- **Liturgical** – so we use aspects of Anglican liturgy to create a framework for worship – gathering, engaging, responding and sending – and use responses and other traditional aspects of liturgy such as the Lord’s Prayer on occasion.
- **Eucharistic** – but we do not have a school eucharist although this has been under discussion. We are, however, ‘eucharistic’ in the sense of thanksgiving. We fill our worship with thank you prayers, we readily thank pupils and staff for all they do in school. We encourage intercessory prayer for individuals, those in positions of authority, the needs of the local community and the wider world.
- **Seasonal** – so we observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals.
- **Symbolic** – so we provide opportunities to use Christian symbols as a focus for reflection and to enable pupils to discover the value of meditation and silence.
- **Ecumenical** – so we invite not only members of the local parish church to lead and join in worship but members of other Christian denominations (see 4 below)
- **Diverse** – so we try to use a variety of music and song from different Christian traditions and cultures and to encourage different Anglican and other Christian visitors to reflect both the unity of Christianity but also its diversity in some way.

As a C of E school we foster strong links with our parish church regularly involving its clergy in leading Collective worship and providing coherence between the worship in church and school. We make students aware of wider links with Ely Diocese and beyond that to worldwide churches, making links abroad where possible.

4 Connections with other local churches

The Anglican Church sees itself as part of a much wider church and promotes ecumenism. Accordingly, we promote close links with other local churches and Christian organisations and welcome their clergy and leaders as regular contributors to acts of Collective Worship. We recognise that, while some of our pupils and families belong to Anglican churches, many worship regularly at churches of other Christian denominations and others come from different faith backgrounds or none. We endeavour to ensure that everyone feels comfortable and accepted in worship without any pressure to participate inappropriately or to believe.

5 Rights and responsibilities

As established by the 1944 Act parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. However, having sent their children to a church school, it is hoped that no one will exercise this right. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with the requirements of the Act.

Teachers have the right to withdraw from Collective Worship. However, as made explicit at interview that Teachers should be in sympathy with the Christian ethos of the school, all staff are encouraged to participate.

The Foundation governors have a particular responsibility to ensure the character and foundation of the school are reflected in Collective Worship but the actual arrangements are made by the co-ordinator (currently the Head teacher)

5 Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship as defined by the Education Reform Act 1988 are as follows:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs
- to encourage participation and response
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and reinforce positive attitudes

In our school we aim “to enable our school community to engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship every day.” (The Way Ahead, 4.6)

6 Planning

Long and medium-term planning for Collective Worship is led by the Head in consultation with the vicar and singing practice co-ordinator. Plans follow the cycle of the Anglican year and are arranged around themes centred on our School Values, Exploration of the Bible, Saints days and the world wide church community. Individuals and groups are then responsible for using them as a basis for developing their own short term plans for individual acts of worship.

7 Organisation

An act of Collective Worship is held daily. This usually involves the whole school in the hall and sometimes smaller class or key stage groups e.g. in individual classrooms. Where Collective Worship forms part of an assembly, we ensure that there is a clear distinction between the two elements of the gathering. When Collective Worship takes place in the hall, the Year 6 children are responsible for preparing the environment. We aim to provide a worship space which is attractive and well prepared with appropriate thought having been given to colour, space, seating, ambience and music.

The Headteacher and other members of staff together with groups of children take turns to conduct Collective Worship. Our parish Vicar will lead assemblies during the term as well as local Christian groups e.g. AcTios, GenR8 and other local church leaders.

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way expecting children to behave appropriately. We create a suitable atmosphere by using music and candles, pictures or other artefacts to act as a focal point. We ask children to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully and to participate in singing and prayers.

We use Friday assemblies as an opportunity to share children’s achievements and to celebrate their successes. These culminate in an act of Collective Worship and play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school.

Parents are invited to class assemblies and special Church services (Harvest, Carol Service, Mothering Sunday, Founders Day) as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and school work together to support the achievements of our children. Governors are welcome to attend acts of worship at any time.

8 Resources

There is a budget for Collective Worship which is distinct from the budget for Religious Education. We have a good collection of assembly books and artefacts which we aim to regularly update and improve. We also access short term plans from the internet. We have an extensive collection of CDs which are used to provide suitable music as children enter and leave the hall as well as to accompany singing.

We aim to purchase additional resources to enhance the hall environment and create a more effective focal point for Collective Worship to take place.

9 Contribution to SMSC development

We recognise that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide opportunities in this area almost too numerous to mention in detail. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others.

10 Monitoring and Evaluation

We aim to develop the monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship by continuing to keep records of Collective Worship and surveying adults and children as to their views on its effectiveness. We make the criteria for successful worship available to all those who plan and lead. The Headteacher and others will routinely observe and monitor acts of Collective Worship in line with these criteria. The Headteacher also involves the Foundation governors fully in the monitoring and evaluation process.

11 Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs when appropriate. As when teachers prepare lessons, worship leaders take account of different learning styles and aim to present materials using multisensory resources.

12 Implementation of Policy

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator/ Head teacher is responsible for this policy which will be reviewed every two years. Its implementation is the responsibility of all those planning and leading Collective Worship.

Appendices

A. Useful websites and resources

Assembly's website:

<http://www.assemblies.org.uk/>

Collective Worship advice:

http://www.ely.anglican.org/education/schools/collective_worship/

<http://www.churchschoolseast.org.uk/>

<http://www.elycathedral.org/education/>

B. Collective Worship Observation record

B.1. Guidance in completing Collective Worship Observation record

Thank you for attending one of our Collective Worship times.

Please could you complete the attached form which forms part of our continuous monitoring of collective worship.

Below are some questions for you to consider when completing the form. Some or all may be appropriate for the Collective worship/Assembly that you attended.

B.1.1. Setting/Atmosphere for worship

How did pupils enter and leave the worship space – was there a sense of order and respect?

Was there anything to mark the worship space and time as special e.g. a visual focus, (e.g. candle, worship table, display)?

Was there a clear distinction between collective worship and assembly (i.e. notices, presentations etc)?

B.1.2. General Development

Was the purpose of the act of worship clear to all present, and the theme developed effectively? Were the different elements to the act of worship, e.g. visual aids, storytelling, questioning, all carried through effectively?

Was the pace and timing appropriate?

B.1.3. Elements of worship

Was there a balance of music, speech and silence?

Were there opportunities for prayer and reflection?

If songs or hymns were used, were they appropriate for the pupils and the theme?

Did the act of worship have a clear Christian theme?

B.1.4. Pupil Involvement

Was the act of worship appropriate for the age, ability and background of the pupils?

Were the pupils engaged?

What contribution did they make to the worship – were they in any sense worship leaders?

How did / could the worship have impacted upon those present?

Could it support their spiritual and moral development?

These observation sheets are held in school and will form part of the evidence when the school has a SIAS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools) which follows up to six weeks after an Ofsted inspection.



Barnabas Oley Collective Worship Observation Record

Date and Time:

Observer:

Present: Whole school / Key Stage / Class

Worship Leader:

Theme of act of Worship:

Was the act of worship one of a series, or did it stand alone?

Setting the Atmosphere for Worship

General Development

Pupil Involvement

Any other comments