



St Peter & St Paul

CofE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy 2020-2023

(This policy has been drafted having regard for the school's Christian ethos.)

	Date	Signed
Agreed by Staff:	July 2020	Mr Steve Ginn Head Teacher
Agreed by Governors	July 2020	Mrs N Ford Chair of Governors
Lead:	Religious Education subject leader and Link Governor	
Review date:	July 2023	

Our School Mission Statement

We see it as our mission to grow the whole child - intellectually, emotionally, physically, socially and spiritually. To provide them, within a Christian environment, with every learning opportunity possible and to empower them to be the leaders of tomorrow.

A school vision for Collective Worship

“First of all, my child, worship and adore God, think of Him magnificently”.

- William Law

Rationale:

As a Church of England school, we hold to a vision that worship is primarily an opportunity to encounter and meet with God. During this time, who God is can be experienced, affirmed and celebrated.

This time is an opportunity for all to learn, worship and grow in their understanding of God and of themselves. It is not simply a statutory duty.

In our school, we want to see Collective Worship enable pupils and staff to gather together to respond to the presence, power and peace of God through prayer, reflection, singing, celebrating and sharing feelings.

Worship should enable participants to develop an understanding of the Christian belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We recognise that not all staff or children have a Christian faith. We welcome everyone to Collective Worship and offer it as a shared space for reflection and spiritual growth where our communities grow together in love and respect.

Aims:

In our school we aim to enable our school community to engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship every day.

We believe that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Parents may find it helpful to be aware of the aims and purpose of Collective Worship as defined by the Education Reform Act 1988 which are:

- to provide an opportunity 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

Through our daily collective worship we aim to meet these aims for all children and additionally to provide within a caring and supportive environment opportunities to help children to:

- deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them

- feel free to respond to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- grow in their understanding of the feelings of people who hold other beliefs
- explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school

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 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 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 in a Church of England school rests with the Local Governing Body in consultation with the Head Teacher. Foundation Governors have a special role in ensuring the Collective Worship is linked to the Trust Deeds.
- The Head Teacher has a responsibility to ensure all arrangements for CW are secured.

Rights and Responsibilities:

As established by the 1944 Act and reinforced in this policy, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. If a parent is considering withdrawing their child from Collective Worship they should make contact with the Head Teacher in writing.

However, it is hoped that no one will feel the need to exercise this right. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with the requirements

of the Act. This includes the school continuing to be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn by its parent from collective worship. We will seek advice from the Diocesan Schools' Adviser with regard to further legal requirements and the management of withdrawal.

Anglican Faith and Practice:

In addition to our legal requirements we seek to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England as part of the heritage of our schools. We use the following indicators:

- **Biblical** – the Bible is used as a source book for inspiration and learning for pupils to encounter the teachings of Jesus. Pupils are made familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other verses of scripture.
- **Liturgical** — aspects of Anglican liturgy, such as greetings, are used to create a framework for worship; pupils are also introduced to a variety of well-known prayers – many of which express central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.
- **Eucharistic** – we have a school Eucharist for the Key Stage 2 children. We fill our worship with thank you prayers and 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** – we observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals.
- **Symbolic** – we use Christian symbols as a focus for reflection.
- **Ecumenical** – we work with members of other Christian denominations.
- **Diverse** – we try to use a variety of music and song from different Christian traditions and cultures and encourage everyone who leads collective worship to reflect both the unity of Christianity but also its diversity. We value meditation and silence, dance, prayer, reflection, story, quiet song and louder expressions of praise.

As a C of E school we foster strong links with our parish church regularly involving its clergy in leading Collective Worship thus promoting coherence between the worship in church and school. We make students aware of wider links with St. Edmundsbury Diocese and beyond that to the worldwide Anglican Communion, especially with our link diocese of Kagera.

Connections with Other Local Churches:

The Anglican Church sees itself as part of a global church. Accordingly, we promote close links with other local churches and Christian organisations and welcome their clergy and leaders as 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 of any faith or no faith feels comfortable and accepted in worship, where no-one's integrity is compromised, and there is no pressure to believe or participate inappropriately.

Planning:

Delivery of Collective Worship is the responsibility of the Head Teacher who may delegate the planning of it to an appropriate member of staff.

In this school we combine our acts of worship with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. The whole school meets together at least 3 days a week. At other times there is a worshipful time in the classroom. We have a regular singing practice led by the music subject leader.

Planning for Collective Worship is led by the RE Lead and is undertaken in consultation with the Head Teacher and PSHE Lead. Plans follow the cycle of the Anglican year, celebrating festivals and saints' days as appropriate. Half termly planning is arranged around themes centered on 'Values for Life' where a Christian Value is explored in depth. Our approach for individual acts of worship is to follow the pattern of GATHER, ENGAGE, RESPOND, SEND, as this approach offers a pattern which both staff and children can use and is useful for evaluation also.

The Head Teacher and RE Lead are responsible for ensuring clergy and visiting speakers receive copies of these plans and guidance for successful worship. Individuals and groups are then responsible for using them as a basis for developing their own short term plans for worship. The RE Lead and others will routinely observe and monitor acts of Collective Worship in line with the provided criteria.

Some additional longer and imaginative acts of worship are planned to develop stronger links between RE and Collective Worship.

Our Collective Worship is celebrated and explored in a variety of ways including through pupil's contributions, sacred and secular stories/readings, dance/drama, prayer/reflection/meditation/songs/hymns/music, artefacts/natural materials, visual aids/focal points, dialogue/creative silence and visitors.

Organisation:

An act of Collective Worship is held daily. This may involve the whole school in the hall or smaller class groups. Where Collective Worship forms part of an assembly, we ensure that there is a clear distinction between the two elements of the gathering. 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.

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,

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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.

The Head Teacher and other members of staff, together with groups of children, take turns to conduct Collective Worship. A representative from the parish church leads Collective Worship once a week.

We have Key Stage Two masses in the church each half term. The children participate in the mass by serving as altar servers, reading from the bible, writing prayers of intercession and doing the offertory. To coincide with this, Key Stage One have a small service which is also held in the church. This is led by members of the church and is usually a child-friendly introduction to services in the church. Members of the church, mainly the Rector, also visit EYFS on a regular basis as part of their visit to school for collective worship.

In recent years, we have benefited from fortnightly visits from 'Open the book'. This group of local Christians (from various churches) help to bring bible stories to life for the children. They bring props and costumes and always include children in their storytelling too. WOW (Worship Our Way) group – a group of key stage two children - lead collective worship regularly. Led by the RE Lead, they are responsible for overseeing the worship table. They write weekly prayers for collective worship which match the theme of the week. They are also responsible to developing displays as a response to collective worship. We use Friday assemblies as an opportunity to share children's work 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.

We invite parents to any collective worship that takes place in the church as this promotes the community spirit of the school.

Governors are welcome to attend acts of worship at any time.

Resources:

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, and a computer program to provide words and music to aid the children when singing songs/hymns.

Within the hall, resources are conveniently stored in a suitable cabinet which keeps them safe and makes them readily accessible.

We have a Worship Table which is a focus during acts of worship and a reminder of objects used during worship. There is also a worship board giving the themes for the week, music and the words to prayers which are regularly used.

Contribution to Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Development:

Collective Worship provides numerous opportunities to encourage social, moral, spiritual and cultural development. 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.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

We aim to robustly monitor and evaluate Collective Worship. We do this by the completion of observation monitoring forms by a variety of attendees including Foundation Governors each term. It is our belief that acts of Collective Worship are inclusive, invitational and inspiring. At this school we evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

- Enrichment of pupil's experience
- Involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils
- The growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
- Positive response to shared experience
- An atmosphere which matches the theme
- A contribution to individual and community sense of well being
- A sense of occasion
- Good order
- Staff affirmation
- A sense of challenge
- A place in the overall plan of the school

Inclusion:

In line with the Equalities Act 2010, we are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, religion, ability, physical or sensory disability or any other protected characteristic. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all. Worship leaders take account of different learning styles and aim to present materials using multi-sensory resources.

Implementation of Policy:

The Collective Worship Lead is responsible for this policy however its implementation is the responsibility of all those planning and leading Collective Worship.

Conclusion:

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular, worship in our school develops the feeling of belonging to a Christian community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

Review Period:

This policy will be reviewed every three years.

Document History

Version	Date	Comments
Issue 1	October 2013	Initial version
Issue 2	April 2017	Reviewed and reordered in light of current practice and advice from the Diocese.
Issue 3	July 2020	Reviewed and reordered in light of the Diocesan model CW policy and current practice