

Collective Worship Policy



Our Vision

is to enable children, with God's guidance,
to know and appreciate the **wonder** of God's creation,
to live in **harmony**, embracing differences,
to always act with **compassion** inspired by the example of Jesus,
and to have the **strength** to follow their dreams and achieve their goals.

Introduction

Our Collective Worship Policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision (With God all things are possible, Matthew 19:26) and the associated values we derive from them (Wonder, Harmony, Compassion and Strength). It celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects 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 the heartbeat of our school, central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community. As Collective Worship is central in the life of our school, all teachers/classroom staff as well as pupils are normally present and participate. We regularly welcome governors and other visitors to attend.

What is Collective Worship?

Legislation requires schools, including Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled and Academy schools, to conduct daily acts of Collective Worship. However, the legislation does not define what is meant by the term 'Collective Worship'.

Corporate Worship assumes a shared set of beliefs and values, i.e. a worshipping congregation meeting on a Sunday, where the worship is confessional and evangelistic (to spread the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness).

Collective Worship, in recognising the collectivity of all participants, can make no such assumption that all have the same beliefs and values.

By Law Collective Worship must:

- Be provided for every registered child every day
- In schools with a religious character, daily Collective Worship must be in accordance with the tenets of its foundation and consistent with the denomination or religious tradition of the school.
- Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of Collective Worship. Whilst we respect this right, we kindly request that parents initially discuss this with the headteacher. If after this meeting, parents still wish for their child to be withdrawn they are requested to put this in writing.

The intention of our Collective Worship

It is our intention to offer Collective Worship that meets the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule.

Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- To appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language
- To appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist
- Engage in an act of community
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect for other members of the school community and beyond.
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- To engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of Collective Worship in ways that lead to improving practice.
- Encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for Collective Worship.

The Anglican Christian Tradition

As part of our Collective Worship Practice, we incorporate the following elements fundamental to our Church of England identity:

- Using Prayer and reflection
- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use

- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Using Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning

We also use elements which are more distinctively Anglican:

- Using prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican liturgy at the beginning and end of worship
- Using Collects as a focus for worship

Our Collective Worship Pattern and Practice

- Planning

The Headteacher, the school’s Collective Worship Leader, plans Collective Worship using the Roots and Fruits: Creative Collective Worship for Primary Schools on Christian Values Themes as a starting point. Staff, pupils, the Incumbent and external visitors plan in conjunction with the Collective Worship leader.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
School value	Wonder	Harmony	Compassion	Strength		
Roots and Fruits theme						

When planning the year the Collective Worship Leader will think carefully about the inclusion of the following:-

- o High days and holidays
 - o Saint Days
 - o Festivals
 - o World Faiths
 - o National
 - o World Events
- What is it and who leads it?
 - o Monday – Values - Deputy Headteacher
 - o Tuesday – Roots and Fruits programme: Jesus’ teachings through Church of England Vision for Education Values - Assistant Headteacher
 - o Wednesday – Chaplain (from Kick London) with an Assistant Headteacher
 - o Thursday – All Saints Church team/Foundation Governors
 - o Friday – Celebration and Praise - Headteacher

We give thanks to God for the achievements of our pupils across every aspect of our school’s life. These are acts of worship celebrating God’s diverse gifts to every member of our pupil community and include worship through singing.

Our pupils are fully involved in Collective Worship and the school’s Collective Worship Ambassadors help plan, lead and deliver worship throughout the week.

- Pattern of Collective Worship
 - o Mornings (20 minutes usually 9:05-9:25am)
 - o Lunch – prayers said in class before lunch
 - o End of the school day – prayers said in class before children go home
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- Practice

Our Collective Worship generally has some core elements:

- 'Gathering'
We welcome the school community with a liturgical greeting/ by lighting a candle/ with music/ with a visual display.
- 'Engaging'
We have the leader's main input into the act of Worship. We engage the pupils by sharing a core message. This may be through a Bible reading and pupil activity.
- 'Responding'
These are opportunities for pupils and staff to reflect upon this message and the impact that it has on their lives today. This may be through prayer, quiet reflection, activity, song or discussion.
- 'Sending' out.
We close our worship through one or more of the following elements – a final message, Bible verse, a challenge, song, prayer, music, liturgy, blowing out of the candle.

We include everyone in Collective Worship by using a range of strategies including music and visuals, we invite everyone to take part in prayer or reflection and as we leave, we encourage all to be inspired by what they have heard.

The messages in our Collective Worship may be followed up on in classes or in further acts of Collective Worship.

Visitor Leaders to Collective Worship

We welcome visitors to lead and participate in our Collective Worship. Visiting Collective Worship Leaders are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies. The headteacher and Collective Worship Lead will discuss with the visitor, prior to the visitor leading Collective Worship, the content, expectations and practices of our Collective Worship. The purpose is to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

Involvement of Local Religious Groups

We believe that the involvement of local religious groups is vital to the development of our pupils. Therefore, speakers from local religious groups will be invited to speak to our pupils when we celebrate collective worship.

Pupil Led Worship

Since we believe worship is for the whole school community, we actively promote appropriate pupil leadership as well as full participation. We have a team of Pupil Collective Worship Ambassadors. This group is supported by the Headteacher and our R.E. Subject Leader. Pupils regularly plan and lead Collective Worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the Collective Worship Leader/ Incumbent / Foundation Governor/ Parent/ to design and develop Collective Worship opportunities.

Monitoring

Foundation Governors, through discussions with pupils and staff through observations and reflections, regularly review our Collective Worship practice. These evaluations feed into the planning and delivery of future worship by the Headteacher. Collective Worship is monitored by the Headteacher and Foundation Governors. We allocate training and resources to the development of our Collective Worship Practice.