



# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

## POLICY

Policy Reviewed	Next Review Due
December 2018	September 2019
Reviewed January 2020	Next Review January 2021

## **Collective Worship Policy**

***In love we flourish and achieve***

Inspired by: I Corinthians Ch 13 Vs 4-7

Those who belong to our school: protect, trust, have hope, persevere, show courage and rejoice.

### **Rationale**

We regard the assembly for collective worship in the same educational terms as we regard all other parts of school life. This is a preparatory stage, laying the foundations of a response, which may later find mature expression as worship in adult life.

We hope to involve the children in the recognition, affirmation and celebration of certain realities and values held to be of central importance to the school in its aims and objectives.

We want our pupils to feel a sense of belonging, to feel ownership of their church, our church. To have access to this extended support through faith. We aim to hear their voice through collective worship and to allow them to steer the focus for it to be rooted in a context and experience that they can relate to.

As part of our collective worship we want to engage our community, it is part of our Christian distinctiveness to want our children to flourish and this united partnership with our community is hugely important. In worship together we can celebrate and recognise our values, protect, trust, have hope, persevere, show courage and rejoice.

### **Aims:**

1. To introduce pupils to appropriate experiences of traditional forms of worship, particularly those from Christian traditions.
2. To provide an opportunity for the celebration of significant events, religious and secular, collective and individual.
3. To create an occasion for public expression of the life and concerns of the school community which will reinforce the experience of being in a community.
4. To celebrate the value of the contribution of the individual to the life of the school.

### **Objectives**

**To introduce pupils to appropriate experiences of traditional forms of worship, particularly those from Christian traditions.**

By:-

- providing the opportunity to worship God.
- exploring and celebrating aspects of religious worship in an open atmosphere.
- developing skills and attitudes of reflection.
- enhancing aesthetic experience

**To provide an opportunity for the celebration of significant events, religious and secular, collective and individual.**

By:-

- celebrating significant events in the Christian calendar in the Church eg. Christmas, Easter

- helping pupils learn those skills which will help them to intelligently observe or, if they wish, enter fully into worship.
- encouraging them to explore their own beliefs.
- considering spiritual and moral issues.
- focusing on the importance of children's feelings and developing their responses to issues and events.

**To create an occasion for public expression of the life and concerns of the school community which will reinforce the experience of being in a community.**

By:-

- creating an occasion for public expression of the life and concerns of the school community which will reinforce the experience of being in a community.
- creating a focus for the concerns and the delights of the community, through the evocation of a sense of wonder, joy, compassion, thankfulness, sorrow, regret, dedication etc.
- promoting a common ethos and shared values.

**To celebrate the value of the contribution of the individual to the life of the school.**

By:-

- sharing success (Sharing Assembly gives the opportunity for children's successes to be acknowledged)
- reinforcing positive attitudes
- encouraging participation and response.
- stimulating a response to that which is worthwhile

**Pattern of Collective Worship:**

This will involve regular whole school Acts of Worship with participation shared between teaching staff, outside visitors (to include Christian and other faiths, communities and organisations) and the Vicar. These are planned to fit in with the Christian year and the school year.

**Programme of Worship:**

All Acts of Collective Worship (A.C.W.) will begin with the Anglican greeting "Peace be with you" and children's response "And also with you".

The A.C.W. takes about 15 minutes

Generally this weekly pattern for Acts of collective worship is followed:

<b>Monday</b>	Sharing assembly allows children a special opportunity to celebrate individual, group and class successes.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Head of School Assembly
<b>Wednesday</b>	Whole school assembly led by Assistant Headteacher
<b>Thursday</b>	Class Assembly
<b>Friday</b>	Led by the Vicar

The A.C.W. is celebrated in church at appropriate Christian festivals and when links are required in the R.E. Work.

The planning and leading of A.C.W's in church is a joint effort between the Vicar, staff, children and outside visitors. Guidelines are available for visitors.

SIGNED.....  
Foundation Governor

DATE.....

SIGNED.....  
Headteacher

DATE.....

### **Notes for visitors to the school**

Dear Visiting Speaker

We welcome you to our school and are grateful that you have agreed to join us in our act of worship and praise. We have about 80 children from ages 4 to 11. Please make any visual aids large enough to be seen from the back of a hall. Please discuss the timing and content of your talk with the Headteacher so that the children can be made familiar with your starting points.

The following notes are designed as an aide memoir and are given to all visiting speakers. Many of the points below will be obvious. However, as talking to large numbers of people can, at times, cause apprehension the points given below are intended only to set the calming atmosphere to which the children are accustomed.

After children have come into the Hall to music and settled down we start with the phrase 'Peace be with you' and the children reply 'and also with you'.

During our worship time together we hope that the children will learn about and come to terms with what it means to take religion seriously. Please be prepared to show the children what your beliefs mean to you.

Our pupils come from a variety of backgrounds, not all of which are Christian. Please try to help the children to explore religion in an appropriate way. We support and value equal opportunity and encourage all children to be involved.

Please take time to talk to the children; they may be shy and will be hesitant to ask questions until they are sure of your response. Do wait until the children are quiet before asking for an answer to a question. The children should put their hands up to answer.

Young children often have difficulty with the adult skill of sight reading. If you would like a child to help in any way, please explain clearly what you would like the helper to do, after which a member of staff will assist by choosing a 'volunteer'.

Please be careful not to undermine the school in any way, (e.g. the school meals syndrome – 'We all know how horrible (maths, school meals etc.) are'.

The children lead busy lives and they often move from one activity to the next without a break. It is therefore quite appropriate to include a period of time (up to a minute) during or at the end of an Act of Worship for the children to sit completely still to reflect upon their worship time together or a pertinent point which you have made and how it affects them or others.

A prayer is the voicing of an agreed collective plea to God. We would be happy to suggest a prayer or to take responsibility for producing one for your visit to us. If you would like us to do this, please don't hesitate to ask.

At the conclusion of the Act of Worship one of the children or a member of staff will be responsible for organising the music while the children sit quietly and listen. One of the staff present will take responsibility for dismissing the children.

Please accept our thanks for volunteering to visit the school to talk to the children. The children gain a great deal by being able to share their worship time.