



Collective Worship Policy

We can do all things through Christ who strengthens me – Philippians 4:13

Collective Worship is a living, breathing part of our school

Collective Worship is a special time when we come together as a community to celebrate faith, its diversity, the world and the word of God.

Arrangements for Collective Worship in a church school are the responsibility of the governors in consultation with the Headteacher.

Collective Worship in our school is carried out in accordance with the school's founding Trust Deed, and in accordance with the statutory Instruments of Government, available from the school or Diocese.

As a school we:

- provide an act of Collective Worship for all pupils every day.
- ensure that this act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class unit but usually we gather together at 10.25am each day as a whole school and once a month at 9:00am.
- make it clear to parents that they have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship.

The aim of Collective Worship in our school is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- worship God
- reflect on values that are of a Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- respond to the worship offered
- to provide an opportunity to celebrate major, and some minor, Christian festivals
- to celebrate gifts, talents and achievements
- to encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues
- to foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy.

To be meaningful for pupils, collective worship enables them to reflect on:

- what it means to be a human being
- questions of meaning, purpose and value
- the best that human beings can be - inspirational, exemplars (people of faith or not) who have demonstrated through their actions, lives and qualities. Examples will come from religious and non-religious sources.
- personal beliefs and values

The Contribution of Collective Worship to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of Pupils

One of the key aims of collective worship is to offer pupils opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Spiritual Development is promoted by:

- the celebration of special achievements
- guided reflection
- consideration of a variety of beliefs, values and feelings
- appreciation of aspects of life which have special meaning and which contribute to a sense of awe and wonder

Moral Development is promoted by:

- consideration of moral codes found in school, in religions and in society
- consideration of relationships
- encouraging empathy by the consideration of moral issues from different perspectives

Social Development is promoted by:

- coming together as a school / class group
- bringing visitors into school from the community
- sharing values and matters of concern

Cultural Development is promoted by:

- using music, art, drama, story and artefacts from a range of cultural backgrounds
- exploring and celebrating aspects of religion and culture

Organisation and Planning

Collective Worship takes place daily in the school hall.

We have a strong link with our local church St Giles and collective worship is led fortnightly in school or the church building by the Vicar or by our Foundation Governor in school. We also have visitors lead CW such as local church groups and charities like the NSPCC.

The content of Collective Worship is planned on a termly basis, themes are linked where possible to a Christian festival and the Diocese of Ely schedule. World Faith festivals and other significant events become the main theme at appropriate times in the calendar.

Collective Worship begins with the lighting of a candle and ends with the candle being extinguished. A prayer will always be shared which the children have the option to make their own by joining in with the 'Amen'. In no way are children expected to join in with a prayer if they don't wish to, but they are expected to show respect for those who want to pray. A worship hymn will usually be sung at some point during the collective worship but often through the response element of the collective worship.

Pupils are encouraged and given opportunities to become involved in Collective Worship where possible. For example they may lead Collective Worship, supported by adults, do a reading, or take part in acting.

Right of Withdrawal

Our school is based on an inclusive ethos; we ask that all children attend Collective Worship. However, we respect the right of any parent/guardian to request permission for their child to be excused. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education reform Act. Withdrawal will be made following parental discussion with the Head teacher and written confirmation of withdrawal. The school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of those children granted withdrawal from assemblies.

Monitoring and Review

Collective Worship will always be thoroughly planned. The themes for Collective worship are published at the beginning of the term. Those leading worship that week are expected to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective.

Governors monitor Collective Worship on a regular basis.