



## The Anthony Curton and Tilney All Saints Primary Schools' Partnership

# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Approved	Spring 2025
Review Due	Spring 2028

## **Context**

- As church schools, Collective Worship is an important and integral feature of the Schools life, and a positive focus of its ethos and values
- All pupils are entitled to a daily act of collective worship
- Collective Worship should be identifiably Christian based including multicultural aspects of Christianity in Britain and around the world.
- Parents have a right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship on religious grounds.
- Collective Worship should be inclusive with regard to background, ethnicity, gender and ability.

## **Objectives**

Our objectives are to give children the opportunity to:

- Think about how they see themselves and how they see and treat others.
- Encounter a variety of Christian beliefs and practices.
- Have time and space for stillness, reflection and prayer.
- Develop a growing awareness of the concept of Spirituality
- Respond to beauty, awe, wonder and joy.
- Respond to situations that are sad, and to empathise with those in unhappy situations.
- Respond to world events, as they affect ourselves and others, e.g., war, famine.
- Develop concentration and self-control.
- Develop a sense of responsibility and commitment to our school community and begin to understand their place in a wider community of village, country and world.
- Affirm the aims and values of the schools.
- Be involved and enjoy the experiences offered.

## **Themes**

Themes are planned ahead in half term blocks with a different focus each week. The themes will be based on the focus of Worship for the Diocese of Ely yearly calendar.

Themes are based on messages reflecting the school ethos, promoting good values, encouraging responsibility to family, friends and community, feelings and reflection.

The Bible (stories from both testaments) are always incorporated into the theme plans.

## **Assembly Format**

Every week, there is a theme which is developed daily during the other assemblies. A time for reflection and/or prayer is always included as is a Key Question. Themes are based on those taken from the Ely Diocese support for schools website. Collective Worship takes place daily, and is made special by clearly creating a quiet time and space.

## **Ideas**

- Visual aids – pictures, artefacts
- Music, singing.
- Role play
- Stories, poems.
- Children’s work.
- Personal experiences.
- Discussion on current problems, issues, interests.
- Key Question/Question Tree

## **Involvement of Pupils**

Children are actively encouraged to be involved in the planning and preparation of Collective Worship, which may include:

- Singing
- Individuals play learned instruments.
- Leading prayers (and / or write their own).
- Readings – Bible extracts, poems, own work related to theme.
- Acting part of a story
- Whole class assembly
- Collective Worship Team- evaluating Collective Worship

## **The Collective Worship Environment**

The Hall is mainly used for collective worship. There is a special wallboard which the children face, which is dedicated to Collective Worship depicting Christian themes.

Visual aids and icons are used to assist with reflection, such as the stained glass windows.

## **Visitors**

Visitors are welcomed and encouraged to contribute to Collective Worship.

If necessary guidance will be provided by the school.

Parents are invited to celebrate a range of acts of Collective Worship on a regular basis:

Which include: Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas Service, nativity play, Easter Service, End of year Service, amongst others.

## **Links with the Church**

- Some of the above services and events take place in the local churches.
- Where possible, the local vicar/ Rural Dean carries out Collective Worship in school and attends the church services.
- When possible children visit the Churches on other occasions.

- When possible, members of the Church community are welcomed and positively encouraged to visit and be involved in school activities.

### **Links with Other Curriculum Areas**

Assemblies are separate to R.E. lessons.

Themes are often taken up in classrooms and around the schools. We believe the Christian ethos of our schools is part of our whole culture, not just an assembly subject.

### **Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

If a parent asks for a child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship, the schools exercise their duty of care: the child sits in an area supervised by an adult. The schools are not responsible for providing alternative worship arrangements.

### **Evaluation of Collective Worship**

The Local Governing Body regularly monitor the effectiveness and impact of Collective Worship, through information gathered from various sources:

- Talking to Pupils
- Observations
- Participation in acts of Collective Worship

### **Collective Worship- Guide for Welcoming Visitors**

We welcome visitors to our Collective Worship. Visitors have a great deal to offer in the breadth of their experience, knowledge and understanding of the issues and interests we want our children to encounter. We want to ensure that all visitors are clear about the responsibilities, values and expectations of Collective Worship at our schools.

### **Preliminary Arrangements**

- Decide the reason / theme and appropriate vetted visitor
- Make arrangements well in advance.
- Enter in the school diary and CW timetable.

### **In advance of the session, to discuss the following with the senior leadership team:**

- Discuss the proposed content of Collective Worship
- What the children already know / have covered in relation to the proposed theme.
- Discuss the appropriateness of the presentation for a wide range of ages.
- Discuss the appropriateness with regard to inclusion of all children (gender, ethnicity, ability, background).
- Discuss who will lead various sections of the assembly e.g., the prayer.
- Use of equipment.

### **Preparing the Children**

- Knowing who the visitor is.
- How the visit fits into the theme of the week – what do they already know?
- Courtesy and respect.

### **During the Visit**

- Visitors will always be supported by other members of staff.
- Staff will deal with any behaviour issues.
- Children are expected to sit quietly and listen
- Children are expected to put up their hands to answer questions.
- Vote of thanks.