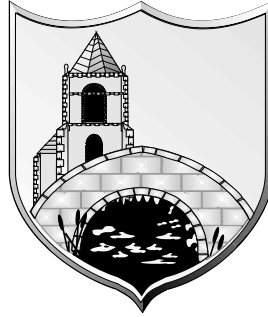


FARCET C. of E PRIMARY SCHOOL



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

‘Let your light shine’ Matthew 5:16

Date Agreed: September 2025

Date for Review: September 2027

This policy, having been presented to, and agreed upon by the whole staff and Governors, will be distributed to:

- All teaching staff
- School governors

A copy of the policy will also be available in:

- The staffroom
- The school website
- The school office

This will ensure the policy is readily available to visiting teachers, support staff, volunteers and parents.



Statutory Duty of School All maintained schools provide daily collective Worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually provided within a daily assembly.

The governing body is responsible for arranging the daily collective Worship after consulting with the Headteacher. Daily Collective Worship must be of a Christian character. Collective Worship should be both Christian and reflect in some degree the distinctive Anglican heritage of the school's foundation.

Aims and Intent:

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

- worship
- 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 the gifts, talents and achievements of the school community
- to encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global
- reflect on 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 Collective Worship that we deliver will recognise and value the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of our school population and will be conducted within our Equal Opportunities policy. We will strive to ensure that collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God.

Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly.



We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school and may make reference to the beliefs of others.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

How Collective Worship will enrich the experiences of pupils:

It will :

- enable pupils to reflect on and question issues such as belonging to the school community, the wider community and to humanity as a whole;
- reinforce a sense of community and cohesion through appreciating those things we have in common;
- develop a reflective approach to life;
- support pupils in the development of spiritual, cultural and moral perspectives;
- develop a sense of the individual's place in the world beyond the physical, material and the here and now;
- provide time to consider values and beliefs - both their own and those of others;
 - raise awareness of difficulties experienced living a life based on values, beliefs and principles which may not be shared by everyone in the wider community;
- provide opportunity to celebrate achievement and to share times of celebration;
 - support students in responding to crisis at a personal and collective level and provide them with a vocabulary to explore feelings and responses;
- support those who have particular needs or who are engaged in times of crisis.

Collective Worship reinforces the school community, by giving pupils the opportunity to share things of worth with each other, within a reflective space. Those pupils who have a faith will be able to use the reflection time to consider issues in the light of their religious beliefs and to pray or worship internally as they feel appropriate whilst those pupils who don't have a religious belief will have the opportunity to reflect and make a personal, internal response to the same stimulus. They will also be able to enter into dialogue with those of faith, enabling both believers and non-believers to appreciate each other's stances.



Content of Collective Worship Collective Worship will include:

- examples of lives of people of faith and other good human beings;
- stories supporting themes from a range of sources, including sacred texts, faith communities and secular books where these support the Christian act of worship;
- responses to key local, national and international events;
- marking the celebration of a broad range of religious and cultural festivals that reflect the diversity of faiths contained within the community, ensuring that this part of the assembly is separate from the act of worship;
- providing an opportunity to think about their own beliefs whether religious or otherwise;
- consideration of questions you wouldn't think about elsewhere – not necessarily with easy / definitive answers;
- putting things into practice – e.g., supporting charities;
- providing a moment for silent reflection / prayer;
- celebration of successes of members of the school community;
- performances or presentations from members of the school community;
- input from visiting speakers / experts where this input has been discussed beforehand with the Headteacher to ensure that it meets the requirements of a church school act of Collective Worship and where the format of the act of worship has been agreed;

Organisation of collective worship:

- Collective Worship is held daily, last 15 minutes and always include an act of worship. It is held in the school hall, classrooms or (on occasion) in St Mary's church.
- All children attend each Collective Worship (except if withdrawn by their parents).
- We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way and tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection.
- We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns.
- We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects from the worship table that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.
- Pupils learn and say together from memory our School Prayer and the Lord's prayer.
- Other representatives of local religious groups conduct them regularly.
- Pupils are also invited to lead assemblies, based on the theme for the week.
- We use a range of resources alongside the Ely Diocesan Board of Education plans and thematic units for collective worship which are based on the traditions of the Christian faith – this includes reflection of the festivals and events of the Christian calendar.
- Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.
- Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children.



- Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children.
- Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools.
- They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.
- Farcet Church of England Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.
- We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.
- We welcome parents' attendance at our Celebration (every Friday, held in school) and family services. These are held at least termly at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year. They take place in St Mary's church.
- Year 6 pupils have an active role in helping to organise assembly i.e. setting up the hall. Each class is asked to reflect on collective worship at least 3 times a week and these thoughts are recorded in the class Reflection book.
- Each class has a Reflection area, whereby Collective Worship is reinforced and provides opportunities for children to extend their prayer and thought processes.

Elements of Worship

- Each act of Collective Worship follows the 'gather, engage, respond, send' structure
- Songs, Music
- A lit candle
- Prayer
- Reflection and contemplation
- Individual and group activity
- Bible readings
- Artefacts
- Discussion, speech and silence
- Procession and ritual action
- Use of the senses
- Other visual stimulus e.g. use of ICT

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship. Staff may request withdrawal from Collective Worship by contacting the Headteacher.



Resources

Our resources include subscription documents, books, internet assemblies, focus artefacts, posters, music and people. The resources are stored and managed by the R.E Subject Leader using the available school budget.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship and supports the school with all issues relating to SIAMS.