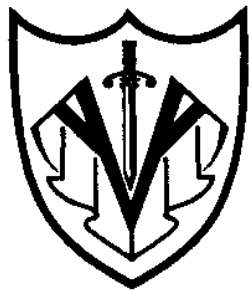


The Village Saints Partnership

Collective Worship Policy



Respecting. Generous. Achieving.



Loving all our Neighbours.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13

Policy prepared by: Mrs K. Howe, with reference to the Diocese of Ely guidance on collective worship.

Date of review: July 2027

Introduction

In our schools we believe that all pupils are of equal value regardless of their sex, race, ability, age, religion or background; they will have equal access to the resources and opportunities available.

In our Church of England Academies the spiritual development of each child is of central importance. We believe that children should be taught a strong understanding of the Christian faith, but in the context of a multicultural society which also respects the beliefs of others.

It is our aim to provide a daily collective act of worship which is educational in all its aspects. We wish to provide the best possible education for each child within the context of a caring Christian community.

Each act of worship will be carefully planned in line with overarching themes for each half term identified on the yearly operational planner. The collective worship will allow opportunities for teaching, participation and reflection.

1. Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to encourage children to develop respect for others

2. Collective worship

2.1 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. From time to time assemblies are held which are not acts of collective worship, at other times collective worship may be only one part of an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the worship by listening respectfully, and encourage children to join in with songs, activities and prayers if they feel they would like to do so.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', as a Church of England School, we base our worship on the teachings of Jesus and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. For example, children are invited to join in with prayers by responding with 'Amen' at the end but we respect the fact that some children may not wish to do this. However all children are expected to respect the faith of others by sitting quietly.

3. Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school for the whole school. Parents and other stakeholders are invited to attend any/ all sessions. We also offer availability to attend virtually at our celebration worship. Our worship group supports all acts of worship and takes part in many.

Day	Worship Focus	Worship Leader	Time
Monday	Bible story from C of E lectionary	HT/ DHT	2.45pm
Tuesday	Focus Value	Classes	2.45pm
Wednesday	Worship through song	Teachers	2.45pm
Thursday	Application of bible story	HT/DHT/Visitor	2.45pm
Friday	Celebration	HT/DHT	2.30pm

3.2 We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We teach children that worship 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. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, a candle and other appropriate objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. All acts of worship include music to enter and leave by; the music is changed each week to provide a wide cultural experience. All acts of worship include a gathering and sending message. All acts of worship include a song.

3.3 Prayers are often led by an adult but may also be written and/or read by the children. Once a week a class group leads our daily act of worship. Children are encouraged to reflect and relate worship stories to their own lives and experiences. A worship group prepares the hall for our daily acts of worship, tidies up afterwards and frequently takes an active role in leading these sessions.

3.4 The head teacher or other members of staff lead acts of worship most other days of the week, but local clergy or representatives of other local religious groups are also frequent visitors. Visitors often include members of the West Norfolk Priory Group of Churches, the church warden from All Saints Wretton and Padre from RAF Marham.

3.5 Each half term we plan in outline the themes for the half term ahead using our rolling programme of focus Values, and key aspects of the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We refer to the suggested plans for worship provided by the Diocese of Ely following the Church of England lectionary.

3.6 Acts of worship also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

We encourage the children to participate in acts of worship by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes, especially in our Celebration Worship on Fridays.

3.7 We welcome our Hub Director, and governors' attendance during worship at any time and they frequently monitor these acts.

3.8 We welcome parents' attendance at our daily act of worship and at our regular church services.

4 Right of withdrawal

4.1 We expect all children to attend worship. 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. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

4.2 To comply with regulations the head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

5.1 The policy and practice of collective worship is monitored by the Head Teacher and supported by our Governors. Children's views and ideas are sought, for example through small group discussions and questionnaires. We also sample parents' views.

5.2 A worship log is kept daily and children are encouraged to review assemblies and provide written and oral feedback. Discussions are held with School Council and the Worship Group about Collective Worship.

5.4 This policy will be reviewed annually.