



Collective Worship Policy

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Version	Date	Author	Note of revisions
V2	2/8/21	MWiggins	Completely rewritten
V2	16/8/22	MWiggins	Additional information to the second to last paragraph.
V3	19/8/23	LHick	Renewed but no changes needed to be made.
V4	11/06/24	LHick	Renewed but no changes needed to be made.
V5	15/07/25	LHick	Reverend Glenn Coggins has retired and we now have Reverend Diane Komorowski.
V6	27/7/26	MWiggins	Made clergy reference role-based rather than naming an individual. Added reference to Church of England Collective Worship guidance. Slightly strengthened legal wording about parental withdrawal rights

Introduction

Our School values: Perseverance, Forgiveness, Friendship, Courage, Honesty and Acceptance

Collective worship is central to the life of our school, worship offers the pupils and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian vision and ethos. It is an expression of our vision “Unlock Potential, Celebrate Success” and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school. We warmly invite all members of our school community to join our worship. Collective worship is inclusive and welcoming to pupils and adults of all faiths and none. Participation is invitational and individuals are encouraged to engage in a way that is meaningful and appropriate to them.

Our collective worship provides pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- celebrate -
 - Christian seasons and festivals;
 - school values associated with our vision;
 - pupils’ and adults’ achievements;
- experience prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer;
- create a reflective approach to life including the exploration of deep questions
- develop as a community centred on our clear and distinctive Christian vision
- experience a variety of styles of worship;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship;
- feel safe and affirmed;
- worship God on their own terms.

Worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth;
- enable participants to consider moral questions in a Christian context;
- enhance social understanding and encourage responses to issues through courageous advocacy;
- give participants a chance to reflect on the place and importance of faith in the lives of people today;
- encourage participants to explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage;
- reflect the teachings of Jesus.

Collective worship is planned and delivered in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and has regard to current Church of England guidance on collective worship.

The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place daily in a variety of groupings, in the school hall, in classrooms and on occasions outside. On occasions, worship takes place in the church. We follow the seasons of the Church

year and within these, significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost; other days such as Candlemas are celebrated occasionally. Other important days in the calendar such as Remembrance and the Leavers' Service also feature in collective worship.

Whenever worship takes place, it is planned to promote participants' thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

Leading worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within the school and from the local Church Community. Members of the clergy from St Peter's Church regularly lead collective worship sessions in school. Pupils are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to contribute to collective worship from time to time and are given guidance from our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme and the needs of the pupils. The themes of worship are chosen to both express and explore our vision and the way in which this vision is experienced in school through the associated values. Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as dance and drama alongside more traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection. and our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship. Pupil voice forms an important part of this evaluation process and helps inform future planning and development of collective worship.

A legal note

By law, a daily act of collective worship must be provided for all registered pupils unless they have been withdrawn by their parent or carer in accordance with their legal rights and reflect the school's Trust Deed.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory. It allows all to attend with integrity and is understood as a special time that we all come together to show respect and love.

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship either wholly or partly. Any parent wishing to exercise this right is encouraged, in the first instance, to discuss the matter with the headteacher so that the school's approach to collective worship can be explained and any concerns discussed.