



*Love of Learning, Love of Life, Love of One Another
'Life in all its fullness' John 10:10.*



Collective Worship Policy

This policy will be reviewed every year and is due for renewal in the 2023/2024 Academic Year at GB2

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Review History	
Autumn 2022	Full reviewed – now includes Picture News

Collective worship creates a space in our busy school day to practise stillness and reflection. It helps us to think deeply about the world we live in, our place within it and our love and gratitude for it.

Our Collective Worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship will reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and members of the governing body. Our Christian core values are; **compassion, friendship, respect, trust, forgiveness** and **aspiration**, all rooted in **love**.

We seek to celebrate diversity; yet nurture a sense of togetherness, happiness, positivity, fairness and shared values in the school, society and the wider world. We reflect upon moral issues, some of which are current in the world. We take special time out to consider the 'wonder' of God, all He has created and to celebrate life. Our Collective Worship is an important feature where all can be involved, contribute and gain from the experience.

We endeavour to provide Collective Worship that provides for the needs of all who share it:

- those who are part of the worshipping community in church;
- those from other Christian traditions;
- those from other faith backgrounds;
- those for whom the school may be their first and only experience of church.

We aim to engage our pupils and support them;

- to explore a relationship with God in Jesus Christ.
- to reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian tradition, whilst recognising the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions and belief systems
- to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- to reflect on their own beliefs.
- to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'little or no formal faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly through reflection and wondering questions.
- to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- to develop a respect for and an understanding of different beliefs.
- to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of children coming together.
- to have opportunities to live out and explore Biblical teachings.

We aim to allow individuals the opportunity to make a free response about their thoughts and beliefs. Children are encouraged to read out prayers that they have written themselves in class or posted in the whole school prayer collection box.

Organisation of Collective Worship (School worship - see also Appendix A)

- Takes place daily
- It is all inclusive – it is for all pupils, is open to the Governing Body and parents can be invited.

- Teaching staff are expected to attend and all other staff are welcome.
- Takes place either in the school hall, the classroom, the outdoor environment or at St Bartholomew's Church.
- Is planned, with specific themes, at a level in accordance with the differing age groups and understanding of the pupils attending the act of worship.
- Includes celebration in songs, hymns, readings, drama and other creative ways.
- Allows members of the school community to have opportunities to reflect, responding individually or collectively to a statement of belief, prayer, silence or reflection.
- Celebrates the achievements and learning of all pupils.

In our school hall there is a focus table for Collective Worship, when the three candles are lit this supports the children's understanding that Collective Worship has started. It enables pupils to identify the appropriate use of the room and to distinguish the specific nature of Collective Worship.

Children are aware of the importance of our collective worship. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate, respectful way. Children are aware that here will often be times of reflection and calm, however collective worship can also be noisy and exciting and at these times we ensure that the children continue to listen well and continue to think and reflect on the teachings.

We use hymns that aim to encourage awe and wonder in our creator and creation. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and lighting candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children, and give staff and children a time for reflection.

As a Church of England School, the content of our worship is organised to:

- Observe the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints' Days.
- Use the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories.
- Learn and say prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer. Then allow for a time of silence and reflection.
- Allow opportunities to speak personal prayers aloud.
- Sing a wide variety of hymns and songs.
- Experience Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles.
- Use Psalms with simple responses.
- Use familiar liturgy and responses (e.g. 'May the light of the Lord be with you')
- Link where possible to the Reverend at St Bartholomew's Church and to Daniel England at The Vine Ministry

We have adapted the Roots and Fruits Collective Worship Programme which develops the children's understanding of many of the key Christian values. We focus on a value per half term to ensure the children are immersed in 'living' the value, embedding knowledge and encouraging children to reflect on the value in their daily lives.

We also engage with the Picture News Worship resource to develop opportunities for children to learn from our world and develop respect for other's beliefs, feelings and faiths. These sessions encourage exploration, discussion, challenge and inspire children to learn. Our Collective Worship programme is planned over a two-year cycle.

Our daily act of worship should be an activity that:

- Is educational and spiritually enhancing
- Fosters a sense of community by sharing in fellowship with each other.
- Creates an atmosphere where those who wish to worship can do so.
- Introduces children to aspects of Christian worship and faith in an open and honest atmosphere.
- Encourages children to be creative, questioning and imaginative, within a Christian framework; also recognising the importance of experience, personal values and respect for the beliefs of others.
- Facilitates spiritual growth, enabling children to become true to themselves and others.
- Explores a relationship with God in Jesus Christ.
- Allows children to reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian tradition, whilst embracing the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions and belief systems.
- Allows children to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- Allows children to reflect on their own beliefs.
- Allows children to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'little or no formal faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- Allows children to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly, with respect for the views of others.
- Allows children to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- Allows children to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- Allows children to develop a respect for and an understanding of different beliefs
- Allows children to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of the community coming together.

Our collective worships reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by sharing their learning with the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective worship provides an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised.

Across the day, pupils are given time to reflect and pray. Prayers will be said in class at the end of the morning session to prepare for lunch and demonstrate their thanks for the food we eat at lunchtime. Prayers will be said at the end of every day. These prayers can be standard or written by the children. They can be led by the teacher or the children.

During the year each class plans and delivers at least one class worship that we invite parents and carers to. This promotes community spirit, and engages the community in working together in support of the children's achievements.

Example of the weekly Collective Worship overview;

Collective Worship Autumn 1 Year B					
School <u>Vision</u> : <i>Love of Learning, Love of Life, Love of One Another</i>					
Term: <u>1 Week</u> : 2 (12.9.22) <u>Worship Value</u> : Thankfulness <u>Value Focus</u> : God shows us how being thankful helps us to appreciate the value of something					
<u>Super Six Value</u> : Compassion <u>Season</u> : Advent					
Songs across the term – all available on the Universal					
Thankfulness <u>1</u> . Thank you Lord for this new day <u>2</u> . Back in School <u>Again</u> <u>3</u> . Autumn <u>Days</u> <u>4</u> . Give it all you got! <u>5</u> . All things bright and beautiful					
Compassion : <u>6</u> . My Prayer tonight <u>7</u> . When I needed a neighbour <u>8</u> . Count your blessings <u>9</u> . Give me oil in my lamp <u>10</u> . I'm gonna be rich in kindness					
HARVEST SONGS : <u>11</u> . Sing a Song for Harvest <u>12</u> . Harvest Song <u>13</u> . Cauliflours Fluffy <u>14</u> . Each Day is Different (there are more songs in the Harvest Worship File)					
Day	Grouping	Worship style	Leadership	Source material and Focus of Worship	Follow Up Reflections / Moderation
Mon	KS Worship EYFS & KS1 KS2	Roots and Fruits <i>Welcome, Learning, Reflecting & Responding (Windows, Mirrors, Doors)</i>	Head teacher	<u>Focus</u> : Compassion Oscar Out of The Box The Amazing Miracle Luke 7.11-17	
Tues	Class Worship	<i>Wider Media (Windows, Mirrors, Doors)</i>	Class teacher	Picture News – Focus to be inserted as known Celebrating Differences	
Weds	KS Worship EYFS & KS1 KS	Individual Approach – kinesthetic	Staff member with Clergy Staff to lead <u>other</u> group	CJ to lead this worship – focus The Queen (1.20 Worship <u>1</u> <u>1.40</u> Worship <u>2</u>)	
Thurs	KS Worship EYFS & KS1 KS2	Roots and Fruits <i>Welcome, Learning, Reflecting & Responding (Windows, Mirrors, Doors)</i>	KB SC	<u>Focus</u> : Compassion Oscar Out of The Box Elisha and The Widow 2(Kings 4 1-7)	
Fri	KS Worship EYFS & KS1 KS2	Come and celebrate!	Head Teacher ZR	Values in Action - Awarding Green Leaves, Certificates, Star of the Week House Point Winners	

Reflection Area

All classrooms have a 'Reflection Area' which is used for daily worship or when Collective Worship does not take place in the school halls. It can also be used for class prayer and general reflection. There are also reflection areas throughout the school.

Resources

There are a range of Collective Worship resources available to reflect all different learning styles and ages. RE resources kept alongside these may also be useful for Collective Worship. Resources may also be loaned from Resources for Learning.

Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement. Each school must provide a Christian act of collective worship for all pupils every day. 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.

See Appendix A for a list of requirements and features of worship at Ashlands CofE Primary School.

Collective Worship can be led by any member of the teaching staff. All staff leading Collective Worship plan using the Collective Worship overview to structure their session. Collective Worship is also regularly led by our local clergy and visitors associated with a Christian denominational church.

Teachers lead class worship and assemblies in their classrooms and school halls as appropriate. We plan for pupils to be involved in participating in, leading and evaluating worship.

Worship in the classroom.

This is held within the classroom on a weekly basis and lead by the class teacher. All the necessary resources i.e. songs, PowerPoints and video clips are saved into a teacher shared folder for all staff to access. Teachers are responsible for adapting the plans and resources to suit their class and age group. Teachers are to provide any 'real life' objects or art resources which are needed to enhance the worship session. Worship in the classroom follows the same requirements and features (See Appendix A) as Key stage and whole school worship.

Inclusion

Acts of worship should include all children and the content should respect the individuality of each child. Acts of worship will be always Christian but they will not be for proselytising; instead respecting the integrity and choices of every person. Prayers will be by invitation and there will be a time for free reflection. When planning thought should be given to SEND children, especially any VI/HI children, to ensure they can access and engage with the stories and sung worship.

Resources

A budget will be set each year to provide resources needed for the effective delivery of collective acts of worship.

Right of Withdrawal

Although parents and carers have a legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship, by requesting and accepting a place at Ashlands CofE Primary School it is hoped that they demonstrate an understanding of the centrality of Christianity to the school and nature of the school as a place with collective worship in its daily life.

If you do wish for your child/ren to not be present in worship, then a formal request must be made in writing to the Head Teacher. The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Evaluation and Record Keeping

The Collective Worship Lead will keep a record of the acts of Collective Worship, which shall include sufficient detail to show that this policy is being put into practice, this will include regular evaluation of the impact of the worship.

The pupils, staff and parents will be asked to contribute to the evaluative process. Across the year each class will be asked to complete an evaluation form for selected Collective Worship sessions. These are kept and reviewed by the Collective Worship Lead and used to continue to develop our Worship.

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the Collective Worship Lead, Head Teacher and Governing body to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. They should receive copies of the Worship Overviews, observe acts of collective worship regularly (at least twice times per year) and seek the views of pupils.

- Collective Worship Lead to observe and monitor the leading of worship in the classroom. (at least 2 times a year)
- Evaluations from the children will also be taken into account when planning worship sessions.

Staff development and Training

We will ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

Self-assessment and Inspection

School Self-assessment will be completed on the SIAMS Toolkit by Head Teacher and Collective Worship Lead.

Disseminating the Policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our website.

Development of the policy and review

Our Collective Worship Policy is developed alongside staff, members of the clergy and governors. When developing and reviewing this policy consideration has been given to our Equal Opportunity Policy.

A review of the Policy will take place in line with the School Improvement Plan, and in the light of Government, Local Authority and Diocesan requirements.

Collective Worship Policy Appendix A

Leading Worship

This is what worship at Ashlands CofE Primary School looks like;

WORSHIP TO BEGIN and end promptly.

- All teaching and ideas must be Christian and follow the teachings of the Bible and Jesus. All acts of worship must have a Bible story or Bible passage as its focus or support.
- The Leader must try to create a calming and inviting atmosphere conducive to worship, by:

Playing worship, reflective or aspirational music on arrival

Ensure that the candles can be seen

Welcome children by lighting the candle and by saying a liturgy – May the light of the lord be with you

Children should be given a chance to discuss, in talk partners, share their ideas/answers to a posed wondering question. (I wonder what does Respect mean? What does it look like in our school?)

- Sung worship should be included.
- There should be a time for children to reflect and think about the key / Bible message.
- Children should be given opportunity to pray, either personally (silently) or out loud on behalf of the other children.
- Close with a sending prayer and extinguish the candle.
- Where appropriate selected children should complete the worship evaluation form. (Please return to CW leader)
- Collective Worship must take place daily
- Classes must arrive and be picked up by class teacher / TA promptly.
- Teachers/ TA's to model behaviour expectations.
- Children to enter and leave the hall silently and calmly.
- Children to sit in rows in their classes, oldest year group on the benches.

Leading Celebration Worship

Celebration worship includes:

- Music as children arrive.
- Welcome and lighting of the candles – liturgy
- Celebration certificates
- House Points
- Other awards - Reading/Maths awards/Star of the Day/Sports Award
- Prayer
- Song (if time)
- Bidding prayer – blow out the candles
- Music to leave