



Collective Worship Policy

Date of Approval: September 2016

Reviewed: October 2017

Reviewed: February 2020

ISAIAH 40:31

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles."

Our Vision and Values



Together in God's grace, may we give our children the roots to grow and the wings to fly



We believe that every child and adult is special to God and uniquely made in his image. With high expectations of children's achievements, we strive to ensure that all our pupils know they are valued and that they aspire to be the very best that they can be in the future.

Christian worship alongside excellent teaching will provide our pupils with firm roots and foundations which will enable them to aim high, use their gifts and fly.

Children will be given the 'roots to grow' through our Christian values:

- Forgiveness 'Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive others.' Colossians 3:13
- Respect 'Do to others as you would have them do to you.' Matthew 7:12
- Perseverance 'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.' Philippians 4:13
- Peace 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will toward men.' Luke 2:14
- Compassion 'When Jesus saw the crowd his heart was filled with compassion, because they were like sheep without a shepherd.' Mark 6:34
- Justice 'Learn to do right. Seek justice.' Isaiah 1:17

With the 'wings to fly' our children will be able to:

- Enjoy school life and confidently explore the world and fulfil their potential.
- Be aware of their own talents and use them wisely.
- Have the confidence to think for themselves and make informed choices.
- Value the local, national and global communities that they live in and make a positive contribution.
- Recognise and celebrate the good in everything and everybody.

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Introduction.

This Policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's Vision Statement. It supports and reinforces the aims of Loughborough C of E (Aided) School, valuing all children equally.

"Praise, prayer, silence, a sense of community, common ideal, the power of the spoken word, ritual, and an awareness of important experiences all contribute to worship."

(DBE Leicester)

Collective Worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school and is of great value. It is an oasis in the school day when children meet together with members of staff in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is regarded as 'quality' time and represents something special or separate from ordinary school routine, but its impact is evident in all relationships and school life.

Definitions

- **Worship:** can be defined as paying homage to (revering) that which is of worth ("Worth-ship.") Religious Worship is the acknowledgement of 'worth' which is attributable to a supreme being. Worth can also be registered in other people and in values and attitudes.
- **School Assembly:** is a gathering of the school community; it is often used to celebrate and focus on the life and values of the community itself.
- **Corporate Worship:** is a gathering of a body ('corpus') of believers and presupposes a particular religious commitment.
- **Collective Worship:** is a gathering of a 'collection' of people of diverse, religious, agnostic and non-religious backgrounds and does not pre-suppose any particular religious commitment.

NB: We note that Collective Worship and Assembly are not one and the same thing. They are, in essence, different from each other, but in practice they often overlap.

Rationale – Legal

Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. This requires worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and will, therefore, be wholly Christian in character.

Rationale – Religious/Educational

Collective Worship:-

- Gives children the opportunity to enter into experiences which lie at the heart of religion. These experiences help them to learn about religious worship and provide a framework for later understanding.
- Fosters a reverential attitude to God, the Divine, the Transcendent.
- Encourages pupils to consider fundamental questions about the purpose of being and about moral and ethical stances.
- Provides an opportunity, for those who can use it, to participate in religious worship.
- Allows us to learn and celebrate values we hold to be important.
- Brings children together, enabling them to experience the security of belonging to a community with an identity of its own.
- Is the source of much interesting and thought provoking knowledge.
- Offers pleasurable expression through literature, art, music and drama.
- Makes an important, though not exclusive, contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims and Principles

The following principles guide our approach to Collective Worship at Loughborough CofE (A) Primary School.

- Collective Worship should have a sense of occasion.
- Collective Worship should provide experiences within which pupils' spiritual development may flourish.
- Collective Worship should be a means of expressing the ethos and values of the school.
- Collective Worship should be educational and should contribute to the Religious Education of all pupils.
- Collective Worship should be shaped to the needs of the school, (time, place, content, style etc.) We should provide a varied pattern of worship to broaden pupils' experience of its different forms.
- Collective Worship should recognize that the school includes children from different religious and non-religious backgrounds.
- During Collective Worship some will be worshipping and some will be experiencing something approaching worship; others will be finding out what it is like to worship by being with those who are.

Objectives

The objectives of Collective Worship are to:-

- Affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God.
- Introduce pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement and prayer.
- Create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere in assemblies, conducive to worship; including the manner of entry and exit.
- Encourage, in children, a thoughtful and reflective attitude.
- Help pupils experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness.
- Enable pupils to use silence for reflection and contemplation.
- Raise pupil's curiosity about the ultimate mysteries of life.
- Enable pupils to learn about and consider in depth Christian teaching, Christian festivals and biblical material.
- Help pupils appreciate that we are 'stewards' of God's world.
- Enable pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to those of others.
- Enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Guide children towards the spiritual and religious options open to them.
- Help children distinguish between right and wrong.
- Affirm pupils' personal worth and responsibility.
- Celebrate individual and collective achievements.
- Develop a sense of community within the school.
- Celebrate religious festivals and special occasions with specified worship.

Management of Collective Worship

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the Foundation of the school is honoured and that the worship policy is firmly based upon the intentions set down in the Trust Deed.
- Ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored.
- Engaging an appropriate inspector to carry out the Section 23 Inspection of a church school alongside the OFSTED Inspection.

The School will ensure that collective worship is held in high regard and that regular scrutiny will ensure that updates and reviews are made and include the following:

- Themes and approaches.
- Development of resources.
- Staff training and support.
- Pupil participation and response.

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator has responsibility for managing the worship on a day to day basis, ensuring that:

- All legal requirements are complied with.
- That all local and National initiatives are followed
- Colleagues are able to access advice and support where needed

Monitoring and Evaluating

Collective Worship monitoring is an on-going process carried out on a weekly and termly basis. There is a collective worship folder in the hall which is filled in by staff not leading the assembly. This is used to help plan future assemblies and evaluate our practice. We also ask for feedback from parents and Foundations Governors, carry out a monitoring visit to collective worship at least three times per year.

Organisation

Daily acts of Collective Worship always begin with a liturgical welcome and generally take place in the school hall as follows:

- **Monday:** SLT based on Christian Values (Whole School)
- **Tuesday:** Staff Led (Key stages)
- **Wednesday:** Worship through the arts or child led worship (Whole school)
- **Thursday:** Clergy – Diocesan Themes (Whole school)
- **Friday:** Celebration / Class / Child led (Whole school & community)

Collective worship has a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and is closely linked to the Bible and Christian teaching. The person of Jesus Christ and the important and special position he occupies in the Christian faith is always at the forefront. The values curriculum is promoted in acts of collective worship and is often related to everyday life. There is an expectation that staff attend collective worship daily and share this important time with the whole school community.

The school worships in church on the following occasions

- Education Sunday
- Harvest
- Christmas and Community Carol Service
- Easter
- To give thanks for the school year (Leavers' service)

Elements of Worship

“There are times when worship will be quiet, contemplative and serene and others when laughter, music and dance will be the appropriate form of expression.”

- **Atmosphere**

This is all-important in creating the right foundation for Collective Worship. Quiet, orderly behaviour and respectful attitudes on entering, leaving and throughout the assembly are expected. Staff enhance the atmosphere by their presence and participation. Music is played at the beginning and end of collective worship. It is often selected to compliment the theme. Calm music is also played at the time for prayer and reflection.

- **Welcome**

A Liturgical welcome sets the scene for collective worship where the Trinitarian nature of God is addressed through the presentation of a Bible, cross and candle to the worship table.

- **Content**

- Stories and talks are carefully chosen to fulfil the objectives of Collective Worship. Stories of a religious or secular nature may be used whilst personal anecdote from pupils, teachers and visitors is effective in expressing that which is important in our own lives. Particular emphasis is laid upon helping children to understand themselves better, to develop empathy and to face up to moral issues.
- Songs are chosen from a wide variety of traditional and modern hymns and choruses. One or two are used at each assembly, relative to the theme. Some are learned by heart and actions are incorporated, whilst others are displayed on the overhead projector. Hymns and songs create the opportunity for children to express thoughts and feelings that are difficult to put into words; and they provide a real source of pleasure.
- Prayer and reflection are the most personal part of an act of worship. Collective Worship in school should provide opportunities for children to be taken to the threshold of prayer, and to cross it if they wish, in a way that respects the integrity of all present. Participation in prayer can never be imposed but we stress the need for stillness, reflection and respect for others. Silence, written prayers, impromptu prayers, The Lord's Prayer, children's prayers and the school prayer may be used.
- Reflection and thinking time are given some direction by the leader in order to concentrate pupils' response.
- Scripture sentences may be quoted from the Bible and, where appropriate, from sacred books and writings of other world faiths. Longer passages may be used as readings.
- Presentation sets the tone within the act of worship. In keeping with the reverent atmosphere, use is also made of visual aids, artefacts, drama, demonstration and video or Power point presentation.

The Worship Programme

We follow the school's Values Curriculum using a new value each half term. Assemblies are based around this but linked to Christian stories and parallels are made with the Bible. We also aim to highlight important events in society (e.g. St. George's Day, Armistice Day, news around the world, but parallels within the Christian faith are always made and focused on.

Themes may:

- Have a specific religious base such as ‘the early Christian Church’ or ‘miracles of Jesus.’
- Reflect a theme common to all religions such as ‘creation.’
- Be concerned with common values held by religious and non-religious people alike such as ‘caring and sharing.’
- Themes are closely related to the school community and are often illustrated by stories of human endeavour.
- Links with R.E. and the Curriculum are incorporated wherever possible. Common themes link R.E. and Collective Worship. The apt choice of story can link worship with current topic work e.g. ‘Caring’ = ‘Florence Nightingale’ = ‘Victorians’.
- Assemblies can be followed up in the classroom by further discussion and emphasis throughout the day.

There is often an overlap or strong correlation between Collective Worship and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education.

It is important to note that no worship programme can ever be entirely pre-planned. There will always be the spontaneous moment or occasion when it is important, spiritually, to focus on the immediate, so that pupils become aware of how the spiritual dimension transcends all our experience.

Resources

- Staff, pupils, visiting speakers inc clergy.
- Worship table with Bible, cross and candle.
- Selection of religious artefacts
- Selection of assembly topic books for teachers Primary Assembly File
- CDs. Selection of assembly song books Taped music - classical, folk, and ethnic
- Piano/Instruments/CD/Tape player
- Data projector, (power point presentation)

Records and Assessment

Stories, songs, prayers/thoughts and music are entered on the daily Collective Worship planning sheets which are kept in the Collective Worship assembly file.

The Head Teacher and collective worship co-ordinator ensure that it is effective by:

- Checking that practice matches aims and objectives.
- Observation of childrens’ attentiveness and level of interest.
- Classroom feedback from pupils, both written and verbal.
- Comments from parents. visitors and governors.
- The extent of the influence upon pupils’ attitude and behaviour throughout the school day.
- Staff meetings are used for discussion and the update of information as and when necessary.

Findings are regularly shared with staff and governors.

Equal Opportunities

All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. The school prospectus informs parents of their right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship.

Multiculturalism

A variety of multicultural material is available throughout the school. Stories are shared and festivals celebrated in accordance with the major faiths represented within the school –

- Christianity
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Judaism

Tolerance and understanding of other religions is expected.

Special Assemblies and Visitors

Within a Christian context, special assemblies are held in church for Education Sunday, Harvest, Christmas, Easter and End of the School Year. These are mainly led by Year 6 children. Occasionally outside speakers, such as representatives from charitable organisations, may lead these assemblies.

Role of Co-ordinator

- To write the school's policy for Collective Worship in consultation with foundation governors.
- To ensure that all staff are aware of and use the policy document.
- To review the policy informally on a regular basis.
- To plan an overall balanced programme of worship for the year.
- To draw up assembly rotas.
- To involve colleagues, pupils and visitors in worship.
- To advise on planning, ideas and resources.
- To be responsible for ordering, maintaining and displaying resources.
- To ensure that Collective Worship maintains a high profile in the School.
- To monitor and evaluate, with others, Collective Worship in all its forms.
- To report to the head teacher and governors.
- To arrange INSET for staff.
- To keep up to date with recent publications, attend Diocesan courses and disseminate information and feedback to staff.
- To liaise with Clergy, the governing body, Ethos Committee and Diocesan officers on matters relating to Collective Worship.

This policy should be read alongside the following other policies:

- Religious Education
- SEND
- Single Equality Plan

Review

The Governing Body will review this policy, formally, two years from the date of its adoption. Informal Review may be necessary in the interim and should take place as and when required.