



The Ashlands and Misterton Federation Church of England First Schools

We are a school community with a Christian ethos, dedicated to providing optimum learning for each child in a happy atmosphere
Love of Life, Love of Learning, Love of one Another

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Approved	
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Policy for Collective Worship

School's core values

Our school encourages a reflection of the Christian foundation of the school. There is also recognition of the realities and values that are of central importance to a community school.

Our Christian core values are; **compassion, friendship, respect, trust, forgiveness** and **aspiration**, all rooted in love.

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.

School's Collective Worship is an important feature where all can be involved, contribute and gain from the experience.

It aims to develop the spiritual, moral and cultural development of all those present, but also allows individuals the opportunity to make a free response about their thoughts and beliefs. The children are also encouraged to read out prayers that they have written themselves in class or posted in the whole school prayer collection box. Collective Worship is an integral part of our school life. 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.

Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at anytime in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", is not relevant. Worship across the Misterton and Ashlands Federation should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governing body school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

The right of withdrawal

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

Across our Federation we would welcome children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

Organisation of Collective Worship

Acts of worship are delivered on a daily basis. When whole school gatherings are unable to be held, it is the class teacher's responsibility to ensure a collective act of worship takes place.

In both school halls there is a focus table for Collective Worship, a candle is lit and a religious book or prayer book is used. This is used to begin Collective Worship and moved at the end of worship. A focus 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. Each collective worship is started by the following liturgy; the lead lights a candle and says 'May the light of the Lord be with you' the children respond with 'and also with you'. Depending on the content of the assembly and the on-going development of our programme this liturgy may change. The candle is extinguished at the end of the collective worship.

Collective Worship usually lasts no longer than fifteen minutes, it should be appropriately paced. To engage children, the emphasis is on story, music or drama.

Prayers will be said in class at the end of the morning session to prepare for lunch. 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.

Planning

The Collective Worship Lead is responsible for ensuring a regular review of our Collective Worship Programme. The

Lead is also responsible for ensuring Collective Worship takes place as directed by the programme, and that communication with visiting clergy is effective. Worship for the academic year is broadly in line with the following plan. We have adapted the Roots and Fruits Collective Worship Programme which develops the children’s understanding of many of the key Christian values. Each new value is explored for at least a two week period in order to embed knowledge and encourage children to reflect on the value in their daily lives. Our Collective Worship programme is planned over a two-year cycle.

Themes may need to be changed in light of current, local and national affairs, which may require a time of thought and reflection.

Example of the weekly overview;

Week :		Worship Focus Value :	Hymns and Songs
DAY	Lead	Focus	I would encourage you to sing these hymns and songs with your children at any opportunity – this is a great way to further embed our values into the daily life of the classroom.
M	Head Teacher	Worship through Song	
T	Class Teacher	Roots and Fruits Based worship	
W	Head teacher or SLT All staff in	Clergy Worship focus on the weekly value	
TH	Class Teacher	Key Skill / Internet Safety/ Daniel England visit / Bible Story linked to termly focus value ie Compassion Worship / British Values Worship	
F	Senior Lead Teacher	Celebration Worship – focus on pupil and staff achievement	

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. The federation of First schools are successful schools, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children and school family at collective worship time.

In the Spring Term there is an individual class worship that we invite our parents and carers to. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children’s achievements. Our children help to plan and deliver this worship.

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 is also a ‘Reflection Area’ in the Library area.

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.

Leading of Collective Worship

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.

The school may also visit St Bartholomew's Church or St Leonard's Church for Collective Worship either as a special occasion or for special events such as Remembrance Day, or as part of the RE curriculum. On these occasions, worship is usually led by the vicar.

Parents

There may be opportunities for Collective Worship to be shared with parents, such as at Harvest. When these opportunities are anticipated, informal invitations are sent to those concerned.

Evaluation and recording

In keeping with the whole-school policy, recording and evaluation of all Collective Worship is required. The Collective Worship Lead is responsible for this area.

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.

SEND

School uses all of its regular strategies to ensure that any barriers for children with special requirements are overcome. These may be practical (attending assembly, being able sit on the floor etc.), or to do with the child's ability to understand/ contribute to the proceedings.

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.