



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

The school's mission statement is:

'The aim of our Church of England school is to provide a modern primary education, excellent in learning and achievement, inspired by a Christian understanding of love and service.'

Our Vision

'Love each other as I have loved you.' John 15:12

Inspired in all things by Christ's love for all people

'Inspired by the person and teaching of Christ, his truth and his love, our school will be a place where all are loved and valued as we learn and grow together in community, joyfully living in his light that we might both be blessed and be a blessing to all.'

Collective Worship at our school – living out our vision

Worship is the 'heartbeat' of the school, beating away beneath everything that goes on in school. It supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. It signals the life, energy and Christian spirit of the school. It develops the feeling of belonging to a community and is seen as part of the life of the wider Christian community. It both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school.

Our school holds services at our local church observing the cycle of the Church's year. The children celebrate the major festivals of Harvest, Christmas and Easter in the church, with parents and Governors welcome to attend. We invite our local Anglican clergy, and members of their ministry team, including our school Chaplain, to lead our worship. Members of the community are asked to speak, in school, on specific themes, sometimes related to charitable organisations, for example 'Save The Children'.

Values and Aims

Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Through our Collective Worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within school and the wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in everyday situations and beliefs
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus

- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not

Objectives – an expression of the school's Christian vision

We see Collective Worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives. We use this time to encourage pupils to:

- Develop their own understanding of worship
- Support the spiritual development of their peers (through planning and leading worship on a voluntary basis)
- Reflect on the way in which human kind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings, through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practise, service to God and other people
- Show interest in, and a concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community and the wider world
- Celebrate special occasions together
- Share appreciation of class assemblies, and projects undertaken by groups within the school
- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in our school, religions and society

Collective Worship pattern

Our Collective Worship pattern may change from time to time. Normally, the following people lead the Acts of Worship.

- Monday: Executive Head or School Chaplain
 Tuesday: Celebration Assembly – led by Class Teachers or Head of School
 Wednesday: A member of the local Anglican clergy (Rev. Axon or Rev. Paget) or our Head of School
 Thursday: Choral Worship in separate Key Stages
 Friday: Class Teachers or whole class assembly to parents

The structure of worship at our school – ensuring it is inclusive, invitational and inspiring

We follow these principles for all forms of Collective Worship:

GATHER – *Meeting each other/playing a part in school community/preparing to meet God*

- Quiet music/video clip playing/central image or quote up
- Pupil worship leaders set up and 'open' Collective Worship by lighting our focal candle, leading the Anglican welcome and response

ENGAGE – *Encountering Jesus and stories of the Bible, listening for God's message for us*

- Focus **Bible** passage and sharing the **message** – drama, reading, Talk Partners, artwork, video clip
- Including questions such as *I wonder what you think this story might teach Christians or us as a school community? I wonder why Jesus told this story? I wonder if this story makes you think of a situation in your life? I wonder why Christians might think this story is special?*
- Song – *bring glory to God, offering him praise and worship He deserves for His great love and mercy*

RESPOND – *encouraging independent thinkers*

- Discuss, question, think – *e.g. I wonder what you might **do** differently after hearing the story today? I wonder how you **felt** after watching that video clip? I wonder what you can do to help/care for others, forgive, persevere or be a better friend?*
- Time to be still and reflect – **prayer** (including Lord’s Prayer, class prayers, individual prayers, school prayer)

SEND – *loving and serving one another and to make a difference/Sent out with God’s blessing*

- A thought, verse, prayer or question to enable children to **continue** their thinking and spur them into action
- Pupil worship leader to blow out the candle

Themes – Long term plans include a three year cycle of themes based upon the RDBE Collective Worship cycle and resources. Our themes are also linked to those contained within the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning programme (S.E.A.L) and the church calendar. There are also links to local and world events.

Participation

Collective Worship is a legal requirement. In line with the statutory requirement, a Christian act of worship is provided for all pupils every day. Adult members of each class and children in school (unless withdrawn) will attend the Act of Worship.

Behaviour

The good behaviour of children entering and leaving the school hall is vital to establishing an atmosphere conducive to worship. All staff has a responsibility to ensure that behaviour is good and that the hall is silent.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation takes place using monitoring guidelines provided by Rochester Diocese together with the school’s own formats for recording ‘learning and environment walks’.

The Spiritual Development Leader and Head of School, alongside staff, will review this policy every two years. Any suggested amendments will be presented to the Governing Body at their first meeting following review.

Inclusion and withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child/children from acts of Collective Worship. However, as Collective Worship is central to our ethos, our Head of School requests that parents consider this carefully and invites parents to discuss this decision.

Date of approval by Governing Body: January 2019

Signed..... Chair of Governors

Date due for review of this policy: January 2021