

Dry Drayton C.E (C) Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

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Title	Collective Worship Policy
Date	10 th September 2024
Approved by headteacher	10 th September 2024
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I pray that your love for each other will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. Philippians 9:1

In Dry Drayton C of E (C) Primary School, our Christian vision shapes all we do.

Our **vision** is to educate and inspire each child in our care, enabling them to gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to make a positive difference in the world. Our small school, open to all, provides a safe, nurturing community built on the foundations of Christian values.

Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult 'to flourish and to live life in all its fullness'. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together. So our collective worship is one of the ways in which we seek to help the children to 'keep growing in knowledge and understanding' and to reflect on what it is to grow in love for each other and the wider world (Philippians 1:9). It will contribute to the raising of self-esteem, developing feelings of worth; one's own and that of others.

In Dry Drayton C of E Primary School, collective worship plays an important role in the life of school and is one of many platforms for exploring the school's Christian vision. It also provides opportunities to remind us of our values, these being;

As a small school we are **respectful** and **inclusive**.

We have big hearts so we are **kind** and **attentive**.

We have big ambitions which means we are **engaged** and **challenged**.

It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, an exploration of faith using the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. It is an opportunity for those of all faiths and none to come together and takes various forms.

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide a variety of different opportunities for the children and other members of the school community to worship God or have time for personal reflection
- to explore a variety of ways of worshipping and praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and to introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before lunch and home time
- to enable those present in collective worship to consider and explore their own beliefs
- to support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth by considering spiritual and moral issues as well as become more understanding and appreciative of the beliefs of others
- to encourage participation and response
- to develop in the school community a sense of community spirit

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- to promote a common church school ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- to demonstrate to children the different elements of worship for them to gain an understanding of diverse liturgical traditions
- to help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism
- to provide an opportunity to engage with the Anglican cycle of worship and the worship of the local church community
- to encourage children who wish to do so to take an active role in leading collective worship in the school.

1.2 We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour
- Working in partnership with parents and carers
- Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included in the school prospectus and is on the school website.

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion, originating from 'worth-ship' where time is taken to give 'worth' to a divinity. Being a church school, we are aligned to this, however, we take into consideration our whole community of people of all faiths and none as we come together and share a worship experience. We invite everyone to respond or to take an active part in worship subject to the right of withdrawal (see paragraph below) and in line with their own personal beliefs.

2.2 In Church of England schools, all collective worship is Christian and takes into account the practices and teachings of the Church of England. We base our worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Anglican Church. However, we conduct them in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

3 Organisation of our collective worship

3.1 The church community of St Peter and St Paul supports us in our Collective Worship. Revd. Clare regularly leads worship in school, and we also visit the Church for special celebrations, such as Harvest Festival, Christmas, Easter and to celebrate and give thanks at the end of the school year. Parents, friends and governors are invited to attend.

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3.2 The planning for the term's collective worship is in partnership with Revd. Clare and reflects the time of year, our curriculum and our values. Staff are supported with understanding what it is to lead collective worship.

We take the themes from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We teach through a variety of spiritual and learning styles including: stories, exuberant songs, drama, games and prayer or times of reflection. We use symbols, like the candle, the dove, the Bible and refer to seasonal colours. Planning ensures that we have a balance in what we cover, as well as being able to respond to any current events occurring locally or globally.

3.3 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. Each day we have a different focus but at the beginning of each, a worship lead will light the candle with the opening words:

'On our worship table we have, to remind us of the Trinity:

1. a Bible which tells us of God the Father's love for all the world
2. a cross to remind us that Jesus, God's Son, shows us that love
3. a dove to remind us of God's Spirit; the love of God at work in us and amongst us

We are now going to light the candle as a reminder of God's presence with us.'

to which we all respond, 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not put it out.'

After extinguishing the candle at the end of collective worship, the worship lead will say, 'May the peace of the Lord be always with you.'

To which we all respond, 'And also with you.'

Our weekly plan:

Monday – whole school to explore our core values and our role as God's stewards in this world

Tuesday – separate key stage collective worship to explore our role as humans flourishing in God's world, topical events explored through age appropriate discussions

Wednesday – clergy led, often bible stories to demonstrate Christian values in action

Thursday – Worship through song, led by our music specialist who inspires the children to sing from the heart

Friday – Celebration where we invite parents and governors to help us to celebrate our God given gifts and talents and our consequent achievements in and out of school.

3.4 Collective worship gives us the opportunity to celebrate God's love and all that is good about life and the world.

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3.5 We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We invite children to join in with a time of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate appropriately. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and other aids to help children focus.

3.6 We invite everyone to join in with prayer if they wish, or to show respect for others by sitting still and quietly and reflect on what has been discussed. We use suggestions such as: 'Let's be still and think or take time to reflect and if you wish to make the prayer your own you may choose to say Amen at the end'.

3.7 The Year 6 Worship Leaders are involved with Collective Worship through lighting the candle and leading opening and closing responses and prayers especially when we sign the Lord's Prayer. They keep a record of our Collective Worship held throughout the week and gather 'pupil voice' comments.

3.8 We encourage our parents and governors to attend our Friday 'Celebration Collective Worship' as frequently as possible, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support our children.

3.9 In addition to collective worship held in school or church, worship sometimes takes place in Forest School or when the time spent there is brought to a close. Children are invited to spend a few moments reflecting on the awe and wonder found in God's wonderful world before an invitation to say the Forest School prayer. This was at the request of the children who also wrote the closing prayer.

4 Right of withdrawal

4.1 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. We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending collective worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

4.2 The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

5.1 The governing body includes two 'Foundation' Governors, appointed by the Ely Diocesan Board of Education. It is the responsibility of these foundation governors to support and monitor the collective worship provision. The governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the governors on collective worship.

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6 Links with other policies

RE Policy

SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural) Policy

Personal, Social and Health Education Policy

Positive Behaviour Policy

Equality information and objectives

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