



## Whole School Policy For Collective Worship



**Caton St Paul's C E Primary School**

**Policy for Collective Worship**

REVIEW DATE: Summer 2023

NEXT REVIEW: Summer 2025

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## **The Law**

The Law requires

- a daily collective act of worship
- wholly or mainly Christian in character

Full details are available at: [www.dfes.gov.uk](http://www.dfes.gov.uk)

The major points for Foundation Schools are:

Collective worship in foundation schools with a religious character and voluntary schools will be in accordance with the school's trust deed. Where provision is not made by a trust deed, the worship should be in accordance with the beliefs of the religion or denomination specified for the school.

## **Preparing for Worship**

1. The following is considered when planning collective worship:

- Implementation of the policy is monitored by the collective worship leader and the governor with responsibility for RE and collective worship who is currently the chair of governors.
- Time is allocated appropriately
- There is a clear start and end to the occasion for worship
- The act of worship is separated from administration
- The school's pupil-led Ethos Committee play an active role in daily acts of worship (Appendix 3)
- Worship is linked to the life of the school
- There is a focus on using the right language :
  - (a) for the age group;
  - (b) recognising the 'theology' (what is being said about God, His people and His world
  - (c) Encouraging the use of Anglican liturgy: "May the Lord be with you" "This is the word of the Lord."

2. Different approaches can be used involving people and providing a variety of worship experience. For example :

- Telling a story
- Describing a situation / event

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- Drama
- Using visual aids / artefacts
- Music
- Silence
- Involving pupils / students
- Using visitors

3. Support will be given to visitors to be effective. Parameters will be clear to help visitors :

- Keep to the agreed agenda
- Be prepared for the visit to the school
- Give and receive honest feedback

Supporting Materials can be found as follows @

Blackburn Diocese Schools' Website and also useful guidance for visitors can be found at: [www.culham.ac.uk/care/](http://www.culham.ac.uk/care/) This is part of the 'Clergy and RE Project' managed at Culham Institute, although there is plenty of valuable information for all visitors in school who lead worship. There is a useful 'Resources' section with references to print materials for Collective Worship.

### **Principles behind The Collective Worship Policy**

- The Anglican principles on which the worship of the school is based;
- The partnership between the content and conduct of school worship and the ethos of the whole school;
- The organisation and planning within the broad traditions of Anglicanism which underpin whole-school worship or small group acts of worship;
- The opportunities given for pupils to reflect individually on spiritual issues;
- The commitment of the Anglican Church to ecumenism;
- The expectation that pupils will be present at acts of worship, but also the commitment of the school to respect the integrity of the religious communities from which the pupils come;
- The arrangements, planning, structure and monitoring of Collective Worship;
- The legal right of parents to withdraw their children from acts of worship;

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- The importance of staff and pupils in the development of a whole-school ethos, they share together in worship in order to support the promotion of Christian values;
- Whether records of all the acts of worship are held in school and are available to parents on request;
- The fact that the school policy on Collective Worship is in general accord with any existing diocesan policy on Collective Worship in voluntary schools.

### **Collective Worship aims to:**

- Strengthen and support the school community and celebrate each unique individual member made in the image of God
- Give expression to, reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- Allow reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
- Contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others – a recognition of the vulnerability of self and others
- Be invitational, inclusive and inspirational. Children of all faiths are invited to worship with us. Prayer is invitational.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to:
  - (a) Praise and reach out to God
  - (b) Experience stillness and quiet
  - (c) Respond to Christian language and symbolism
  - (d) Experience a variety of forms of prayer and mediation. These might include: praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others, and quiet reflection o Helping pupils being to understand the nature and purpose of worship
  - (e) Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.
- To reinforce Christian Values
- strengthen and support the school community and celebrate each unique individual member made in the image of God;
- give expression to, reaffirm and practise the values of the school community;
- Allow reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings;

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- celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals;
- contribute to the spiritual, moral social and cultural development of pupils;
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others – a recognition of the vulnerability of self and others;
- help pupils begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

## **Structure**

- There is daily worship led by pupils, teachers and the local vicar. Whole school worship takes place in the school hall, class worship takes place in classes.
- Each term there a longer act of worship takes place including fuller Anglican liturgy and involving the wider community. Members of the community, as well as staff are invited to take communion with the Vicar from St Paul's.
- The first worship of each half-term will introduce the Christian value and will take place in St Paul's Church, with all children and staff invited.
- Special events in the Christian calendar will be celebrated with worships in Church, with input from each class.

## **Planning**

The content and methodology of Collective Worship is be varied and planned by the headteacher, staff and local ministers.

- worship observes the cycle of the Church's year and selects themes appropriate to this and the pupils' aptitude and ability: we plan using our 12 Christian values, as well as a 'walk through' the Bible based on the big frieze. Picture news is used to ensure children have a world-wide view and can aspire to be courageous advocates.
- worship reflects our Anglican heritage, ie using the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning;
  - (a) reflects upon Christian symbols and their use in worship (for example, bread, wine, chalice, cross and crucifix are symbols which lead to an understanding of the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection);
  - (b) observes the cycles of the Church's year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost. This, with Holy days, can provide the framework for a changing pattern of school worship.
  - (c) participates in the regularity and set order of Anglican worship. This recognises the central significance of the Eucharist while acknowledging the variety of other forms of worship, which may be decided locally in order to match, as far as possible, pupils' experience in school and church.

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- (d) there could be special services from time to time, eg welcoming new pupils to school or acknowledging the departure of older pupils;
- (e) using collects as a focus for short acts of worship in small groups;
- (f) identifying a collection of prayers, hymns and psalms which creates a framework for worship within the school;
- (g) learning traditional responses and prayers which express the essential beliefs of Christians throughout the ages;
- (h) providing opportunity to discover the value of meditation and silence within the context of Christian worship;
- (i) recognising that the Anglican Church has a strong commitment to ecumenism which may be expressed through the range of visitors who are invited to lead or attend Collective Worship;
- (j) experiencing the bond of community which encompasses gender, age, race and religious opinions.

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- (a) sharing a commitment to dialogue with other faiths, shown in the welcome offered to all pupils and the celebration of shared values and beliefs.

## **Recording**

All acts of worship are planned, there is evaluation by pupils of how the worship was received. This is achieved by asking a child, teacher or class to reflect on the worship in our whole-school worship book and these evaluations are part of the ongoing monitoring of Collective Worship at termly meetings.

## **Approaches**

Collective Worship is first and foremost for the educational benefit of pupils. It is a shared activity which allows a variety of responses.

1. Worship should provide an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on stimuli which allow the human spirit to respond with integrity.
2. Worship in church schools should also offer the opportunity to explore, reflect upon and respond to the mystery and meaning of the Christian faith. It should be an inclusive activity which seeks to build links with all dimensions of the curriculum. It should include the traditional elements of Christian worship; prayers, hymns, Bible reading, to which pupils are given the opportunity to respond.

## Monitoring

The Collective Worship is monitored through:

- Discussion at staff and governor meetings. This discussion includes

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- \* Review of content and methodology;
- \* Suitability for age, aptitude and ability, variety of styles, groupings, leadership;
- \* Links to curriculum and classroom experience;
- \* Resources and budget;
- \* Inset;
- Responding to comments from pupils
- Review of job description and role of Collective Worship co-ordinator,
- Attendance at worship by foundation governors for monitoring purposes,
- Checking that all the requirements of law are being met

This Policy has been drawn up by the governors of the school in consultation with the headteacher who is also the worship co-ordinator and other members of staff.

### **Appendix 1 - Visitors**

The following guidance is taken from the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education Collective Worship Policy Guidelines 1995 produced by Sharon Hallis.

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Visitors leading an act of worship must be given precise instructions concerning age and ability of pupils, purpose of occasion and appropriate delivery (content and material used). The Board of Education is able to offer helpful advice on visitors in school. It may be useful to consider the following questions:

- What are the visitor's connections with the school, eg parent, charity representative, clergy from other denomination, adviser, colleague?
- What brought the visitor to school, eg did the visitor approach the school or vice versa?
- Why has the school chosen the visitor to lead this particular act of worship?
- What is the aim and content of the visitor's act of worship?
- Does it fit into the overall scheme for Collective Worship?
- Does the visitor's method, approach or style maintain the respect for, and is it sensitive to all those involved in worship?
- Will the school prepare beforehand or follow up after the visit with the pupils?
- Has the visitor been recommended by colleagues, Board of Education etc?
- What does the school hope to achieve by having the visitor lead and act of worship?
- What effect will the visitor have on the pupils spiritually, educationally, emotionally?

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