



# Collective Worship Policy

Approved by the Governing Body: Jan 2018  
Review Date: Jan 2020

## *Aims and purpose*

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs
- to encourage participation and response
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes to teach children how to worship

## **Collective worship**

- We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.
- In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
- While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

## **Organisation of collective worship**

- We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school.
- We conduct the time of collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way entering and leaving in silence. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and candles as a focal point for the attention of the children.
- The Headteacher or other members of staff take collective worship and the local vicar takes whole school worship every other week. Sometimes other visitors are invited to lead the worship.
- The worship begins with a welcome that all staff use, and ends with a collective response with the lead and the children.
- A prayer basket that the children and staff contribute to is used for the prayers at the end of collective worship. Children are selected to hold a cross during assembly.
- There is a values board and these are closely linked to the Christian ethos of our school.



# Collective Worship Policy

Approved by the Governing Body: Jan 2018  
Review Date: Jan 2020

The pattern for the week is:

Day	Time: 9.05 - 9.30
Monday	Year 6 /Reverend Hiscock/Reverend Mann
Tuesday	Mrs Ganderton
Wednesday	Mrs Foster
Thursday	Miss Chiltern (singing and prayers)
Friday	Miss Leslie

- We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith, our school values or a reflection of the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum e.g. SEAL topics. We plan our worship as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.
- The school attends the Church for services linked to the festivals in the Christian year. These are led by our children and drama, music, readings etc are incorporated at Harvest and Christmas. At Easter this is led by the clergy as a service.
- Our worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to take part by participating in drama, reading, leading prayer etc. Our Friday Celebration Assembly offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. It plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Twyford C of E School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all.
- We welcome governors' attendance at our worship and Celebration Assembly.
- We welcome parents and carers and governors to special assemblies and all those which take part in church.

## Right of withdrawal

- We expect all children to attend worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious 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.
- The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

## Monitoring and review

- It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor



# Collective Worship Policy

Approved by the Governing Body: Jan 2018  
Review Date: Jan 2020

concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

Signed:  
Headteacher  
Date

## Appendix 1

### *Definitions of Worship*

**Worship** - an explicitly religious concept which presupposes a foundation of religious belief and commitment

**Corporate worship** - takes place in faith communities, implies one body of worshippers.

Worship the celebration and veneration of shared values, the response to what is seen to be of ultimate concern love, sharing, tolerance, appreciating, responsibility and respect - opportunity to think and question their own attitude to what is of value to others as well as themselves - explore the response of a religion to the concept being studied e.g. how it interprets responsibility/love

**Collective worship** - takes place in schools, the retention of individuality in the context of unity and should promote the spiritual development of pupils

The last two definitions provide the description of what happens in our school where worship is seen as unifier. Children, staff, parents and governors have membership of the school community in common whatever their other backgrounds and different groups are made aware of their role in whole structure.

### **Liturgical phrases used in Collective Worship**

**Welcome:** The Lord be with you. **Response:** And also with you

**Closing phrase:** Go in peace, go in joy, go in love Amen



# Collective Worship Policy

Approved by the Governing Body: Jan 2018  
Review Date: Jan 2020

## Appendix 2

### *Prayers*

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
As we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.

#### **The School Prayer**

Dear Lord  
At the end of our day,  
help us to remember all the good things we have learnt  
The people who have helped and encouraged us in every way  
Help us to be confident in all we have learned today  
Thank you Lord  
Amen

Dear Lord  
Of these three things I pray  
To see thee more clearly  
To love you more dearly  
To follow you more nearly  
Day by day  
Amen

God be in my head  
and in my understanding  
God be in my eyes  
and in my looking  
God be in my mouth  
and in my speaking  
God be in my heart  
and in my thinking  
God be at my end  
and at my departing



# Collective Worship Policy

Approved by the Governing Body: Jan 2018  
Review Date: Jan 2020

## **The Celtic Blessing (sung with actions)**

Deep peace of the running wave to you  
Deep peace of the silent star  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you  
Deep peace of the quiet earth  
May peace, may peace, may peace fill your soul  
Let peace let peace let peace make you whole

## **The Grace (with actions)**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all evermore



# Collective Worship Policy

Approved by the Governing Body: Jan 2018  
Review Date: Jan 2020

## Appendix 3

### *Visitors' Code of Conduct*

We appreciate the valuable educational opportunities provided by visitors. However it is a principle that work in religious education should respect the attitude and perspective of each child.

Therefore religious visitors taking part in the life of a school should:

- be willing to share their own experiences, beliefs and insights but avoid criticising the experience and insights of others and never imposing their views upon pupils
- be familiar with the school's aims, ethos and policies and plan their involvement in the light of the aims and curriculum at the school
- seek to use engaging teaching and learning methods which involve the pupils actively and to communicate at appropriate levels for the age groups concerned
- make clear to pupils who they are, who they represent and what they are offering to the children
- be willing to respect and value the faith of children and young people when it is different to their own
- develop ways of speaking to children which communicate an open approach avoiding any hidden agenda to convert young people

Religious visitors should work alongside teachers at all times, the responsibility for the pupils including their health and safety rests with the teacher.



# Collective Worship Policy

Approved by the Governing Body: Jan 2018  
Review Date: Jan 2020

## Appendix 4

### *COLLECTIVE WORSHIP EVALUATION GUIDELINES*

Observe the Assembly unobtrusively. Make notes / fill in the form after the Assembly. Be prepared to discuss the evaluation with whoever ran the Assembly as soon as possible if they wish. Make a copy - original to the Headteacher, copy to whoever ran the Assembly.

Please be aware:

- Taking assemblies makes most people feel vulnerable
- You are evaluating the effectiveness of the assembly, not the individual who is taking it
- Comments / evaluation should be constructive and positive

Thank you to everyone.