



Collective Worship Policy



Date	Review Date	Coordinator	Nominated Governor
Sept 2021	Sept 2022	Chair of the Governors	Rachel Bain

Headteacher:	Pamela Acheson	Date:	Sept 2021
Responsible Governor:	Rachel Bain	Date:	Sept 2021

Status of Policy:

The Governing Body of the Federation of Grewelthorpe and Fountains C of E Primary Schools adopted this policy in September 2020. It will be reviewed in September 2021.

1. Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school and reaffirms our vision:



We are proud to be a Church of England school and our Christian ethos underpins the life and work of our school.

We believe that each of us are unique individuals capable of spiritual, moral, Intellectual and physical development.

*With Faith, anything is possible
Believe in yourself
With Hope, all things brighter
Believe in your future
With Love, we are never alone.
Believe in others*

It is important that our children are able to BELIEVE in themselves and the possibilities available to them, to **LEARN** by embracing challenge, questioning the world around them, reflecting and not being afraid to take risks so that they **FLOURISH** as unique individuals and the role models of the future.



Our worship also reinforces our agreed associated Christian values of:

Wisdom Thankfulness Humility Endurance Compassion Trust Peace
Forgiveness Friendship Justice Hope Service Reverence

Collective Worship celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

2. What is Collective Worship?

Legislation requires schools, including Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools, to conduct daily acts of Collective Worship. However, the legislation does not define what is meant by the term 'Collective Worship'.

“... Worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to ‘collective worship’ rather than ‘corporate worship’. (DfE Circular 1/94 para 57)

Corporate worship assumes a shared set of beliefs and values, i.e. a worshipping congregation meeting on a Sunday, where the worship is confessional and evangelistic (to spread the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness).

Collective worship, in recognising the collectivity of all participants, can make no such assumption that all have the same beliefs and values.

Collective Worship should be:

“Appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes.” (DfE Circular 1/94 p.22)

Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other’s joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

In line with the requirements of the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that collective worship

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- b) Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- c) Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today’s world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- d) Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

3. The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection
- Using prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and end of worship

4. Planning Worship (see appendix 1)

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors in consultation with the collective worship leader. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class. Our school plans worship systematically and cohesively using Roots and Shoots, Picture News and Bigstart Assemblies. Resources are adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and this enables continuity. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with this policy as well as our school visitor and safeguarding policies which can be found on the school website. This should include discussing the content of any worship with the collective worship leader in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

The planning group meet each term with the Headteacher.

The group are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including (eg: music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT).

5. Expectation of Pupils

Expectations of pupil behaviour are commensurate with our whole school behaviour policy. Collective Worship is a very special time within our school day. Pupils are expected to enter the hall in silence when gathering and leaving collective worship.

Pupils regularly plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the collective worship leader to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers.

6. Developing Worship

The school allocates part of its budget to support collect worship. Governors recognise the need for professional development of staff in the review and delivery of collective worship and ensure training is offered on both an individual and whole staff basis. The collective worship leader attends regular professional development with the Diocese of Leeds and accesses the support of the named adviser through the Enhanced Service Plan to ensure that worship is inclusive, invitational and inspirational.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

Our school regularly evaluates the breadth of acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order for worship to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through feedback surveys, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our Governors and SLT at governing body meetings and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

The legal requirements of collective worship in Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools.

- Be conducted in accordance with the provision of the Trust Deeds of the school and Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England
- The Governing Body should ensure that all pupils **each day** engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship which is in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church
- Arrangements for collective worship, in foundation schools of a religious character, are the responsibility of the Governing Body, after consulting with the Headteacher (*DfE Circular 1/94 para 52 & 53*)
- All acts of worship in Church schools must be Christian in character (based on Biblical teachings)
- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdraw) must on 'each school day take part in an act of collective worship'

8. Parental Withdrawal

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

9. Appendix

Appendix I: The Rhythm of Worship at the Federation of Grewelthorpe and Fountains C of E Primary Schools

The following pattern is followed, providing a daily rhythm to our worship

Gathering	<i>We aim to ensure children 'cross a threshold' into worship. We gather in worship to the sound of music. The music plays before the children arrive as a 'call' to worship. In whole school worship children bring their class pebble/prayer box to create a school cairn on the altar. An adult lights the candle and recites a piece of liturgy.</i>
Engaging	<i>We aim to stimulate the interest of children through a range of storytelling, drama, activities, poetry, videos, slides etc around a single simple focus.</i>
Actively responding	<i>In every worship session, children and adults will have an opportunity to respond to the focus of the worship. This may simply be through prayer and reflection but we try to provide for the range of pupils we have. In class worship time we encourage children to respond to the theme personally and deeply.</i>
Sending	<i>Worship always ends with a prayer. The candle is blown out. Children leave to sound of music and the children collect their pebbles and return to their classes</i>

The following ongoing weekly pattern is generally followed:

Monday	1:00pm	<i>Global Awareness - Teachers use Picture News to connect with current news topics and encourage courageous advocacy on news and issues of interest to us and our community.</i>
Tuesday	3:10pm	<i>'Songs of Praise' - A musical act of collective worship</i>
Wednesday	3:10pm	<i>Visitor/SLT leads the collective worship linked to the theme.</i>
Thursday	3:10pm	<i>Worship on the theme. Teachers use the 'Roots and Shoots' and 'Big start Assemblies resources.</i>
Friday	3:10pm	<i>Thanksgiving - Class 4 children lead a session to celebrate and show our gratitude for individual achievements.</i>

Our long- term cycle of worship provides a rhythm to the year:

Year A: **Generosity, Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness, Friendship, Responsibility**

Year B: **Faith, Generosity, Thankfulness, Respect, Trust, Hope, Perseverance, Justice, Love, Integrity, Truthfulness, Humility**

Policy:	Collective Worship Policy
Signed Chair of Governors:	<i>R Bain</i>
Date Signed:	September 2021
Governors Meeting Ratified:	September 2021
Review Date:	Autumn 2022
Review schedule	Annually