COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

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Collective Worship Policy

Capel St Mary CEVC Primary School

At Capel St Mary CEVC Primary School we are driven by our deep routed Christian commitment to the children's well-being and education. We aim to develop a safe and exciting environment where all God's children flourish through opportunities and collaboration in a nurturing environment to become lifelong learners.

Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of Truth, Respect, Compassion and Friendship and 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 and 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.

What is Collective Worship?

Legislation requires schools, including 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 pg. 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 attitudes and values
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

In line with 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 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 and varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican / Methodist worship and festivals.

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 the 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 in effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

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 Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost
- 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

We may also use elements which are more distinctively Anglican

- Using prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and the end of worship

Implementation

Normally, * 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. The act of worship can take place at any time in the school day and in regular school groupings e.g. whole school, Units or individual classes.

Our School plans using the Roots and Fruits framework additionally following materials developed by the Ipswich and St Edmundsbury Diocese. 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 our school visitor and safeguarding policy. This will include a discussion of the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors will always be given a story or theme to support them.

Long Term Plan for Worship

	Autumn One	Autumn Two	Spring One	Spring Two	Summer One	Summer Two
Year A 2023 – 2024	Generosity *(Harvest)*	Compassion *(Christmas)*	Courage *(Candlemass)*	Forgiveness *(Lent and Easter)*	Friendship *(Pentecost)*	Respect *(Trinity)*
Year B 2025 - 2026	Thankfulness *(Harvest)*	Trust *(Christmas)*	Perseverance *(Epiphany)*	Justice *(Lent and Easter)*	Service *(Pentecost)*	Truthfulness *(Trinity)*

Our worship consists of 4 stages:

- *Gather* – we welcome the community, (music, liurgy and the lighting of a candle)
- *Engage* – we share, (a Bible reading or story followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message)
- *Respond* – pupils, (discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing)
- *Send* – we share, (the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning / behaviour. We close with liturgy, final prayer, music and the blowing out of our special candle)

Expectations of pupils

*Pupils will have opportunities to plan and support collective worship on a regular basis. The School has a worship committee and these children will work with the collective worship coordinator to lead and act of worship each term.

Pupils in Unit Three will set up the School Hall for Collective Worship and they will light the candle and be responsible for supporting the Collective Worship leader. They will also write a short note describing what the act of worship was for that particular day.

Developing Worship

The school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of worship. The Collective Worship leader attends regular professional development led by the Ipswich and St Edmundsbury Diocese and accesses a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.

Self-assessment and Inspection

*Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact that it has on the school and its wider community. This involves the monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our open door policy and questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis.

Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese (SIAMS).

The legal requirements of collective worship in a Voluntary Controlled school

- Be conducted in accordance with the provision of the School Deeds and the Instrument of Government. It should be consistent with the beliefs and practises of the Church of England
- The School Leadership Team and the Governors should ensure that all pupils **each day** engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship which is in accordance with the faith and practise of the Church
- 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.

Parental Withdrawl

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.

Links to Other Policies

- **Safeguarding Policy**
- **RE Policy**
- **Volunteer Policy**

Reviewed: January 2024

Next review date: January 2026