



## Collective Worship Policy

<b>This policy replaces</b>	Sept 2017
<b>Date policy approved by Governing Body</b>	Feb 2022
<b>Date of next review</b>	Feb 2025
<b>Reviewer</b>	Personal Development, Welfare and Behaviour Sub-Committee. Collective Worship/RE Leader

**Introduction**

This policy is enacted within the context and spirit of the school’s Mission Statement and Golden Threads that weave through the life of the school. It supports and reinforces the values and vision of Market Harborough CE Academy valuing all children equally.

<b>Mission Statement</b>				
<b>‘Growing Together in God’s Love.’</b>				
<b>Golden Threads</b>				
<b>Hope for Humanity</b> John 8:12	<b>Stewards of the Earth</b> Genesis 2:15	<b>Community of Learners</b> Proverbs 18:15	<b>Passionate speakers, passionate readers</b> Colossians 4:6	
I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.	Treat the Earth as if your life depends on it.	Wise men and women are always learning, always listening for fresh insights.	Let your conversation be gracious and attractive[a] so that you will have the right response for everyone.	
<b>Values</b>				
<b>THINK TOGETHER</b> <b>Service and Relationships</b>	<b>THINK SHARE</b> <b>Generosity and Thankfulness</b>	<b>THINK LOVE</b> <b>Forgiveness and Compassion</b>		
<i>We will welcome everyone in our community</i> <i>We will look out for each other</i> <i>We will make time to serve others and never say ‘it is not my job’</i>	<i>We support each other.</i> <i>We appreciate each other and say thank you.</i> <i>We are grateful for all the many things we have</i>	<i>We will help others who are having a difficult time</i> <i>We will try to let go of our hurts and forgive the mistakes of others</i> <i>We will try and stand in other people’s shoes and understand them</i>		
<b>THINK POSITIVE</b> <b>Hope and Trust</b>	<b>THINK VALUE</b> <b>Respect and Dignity</b>	<b>THINK STRENGTH</b> <b>Courage and Perseverance</b>		
<i>We try to look on the bright side of life and spread a message of hope for the future.</i> <i>We know that being trustworthy shows you care.</i>	<i>We are honest with each other but never humiliate</i> <i>We will treat others as we would like to be treated</i>	<i>We will keep going even when things are hard or don’t go our way</i> <i>We will be brave and stick at things even when they seem scary</i>		
<b>School Values Statements to guide our behaviour:</b>				
<b>In our school with God’s help, we will...</b>				
Respect ourselves, value others and our environment and show compassion in all we do	Build strong relationships based on good manners, trust, generosity and forgiveness	Follow instructions and always try our hardest even when we find things difficult	Think carefully about the choices we make and try to be wise and courageous	Will count our blessings and be grateful for the good things in our world and trust that as each day closes, we have been better people than we were the day before

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- SMSC
- RE
- Teaching and Learning
- Behaviour and Relationship
- SEND

The ethos of the school, encompassing all that we stand for, is reflected in and expressed through Collective Worship; it derives from the Anglican Christian tradition and supports the promotion of Christian beliefs and values.

Collective Worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school. It is an oasis in the school day when children meet together with members of staff, in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate.

## Definitions

**Worship** can be defined as paying homage to (revering) that which is of worth (“Worth-ship.”) Religious Worship is the acknowledgement of ‘worth’ which is attributable to a supreme being. Worth can also be registered in other people and in values and attitudes.

**School Assembly** is a gathering of the school community; it is often used to celebrate and focus on the life and values of the community itself.

**Corporate Worship** is a gathering of a body (‘corpus’) of believers and pre-supposes a particular religious commitment.

**Collective Worship** is a gathering of a ‘collection’ of people of diverse, religious, agnostic and non-religious backgrounds and does not pre-suppose any religious commitment.

*NB. We note that Collective Worship and Assembly are not one and the same thing. They are, in essence, different from each other, but in practice they often overlap.*

## Legal Rationale

- Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. This requires worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and is, therefore, wholly Christian in character.
- The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society.
- All maintained schools – including church schools – must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils.

## Religious/Educational Rationale

Collective Worship:

- gives children the opportunity to enter into experiences which lie at the heart of religion; these experiences help them to learn about religious worship and provide a framework for later understanding
- fosters a reverential attitude to God, the Divine
- encourages pupils to consider fundamental questions about the purpose of being and about moral and ethical stances
- provides an opportunity, for those who can use it, to participate in religious worship
- allows us to learn and celebrate values we hold to be important

- brings children together, enabling them to experience the security of belonging to a community with an identity of its own
- is the source of much interesting and thought-provoking knowledge
- offers pleasurable expression through literature, art, music and drama
- makes an important, though not exclusive, contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

### **Aims**

*“Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.”*

(DfEE – Circular 1/94)

The following aims guide our approach to Collective Worship at Market Harborough CE Academy:

Collective Worship aims to:

- enable children and staff to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition
- lead the school community to the ‘threshold of worship’ in order for them to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of ‘faith’ and encourage those of ‘no faith’ so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship;
- use celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth;
- provide opportunities for the whole school community to address God directly through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit through acknowledging his presence, reflecting upon his character and giving Him praise and honour;
- use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate and lead worship;
- encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework by learning more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ through worship;
- raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith;
- reaffirm, strengthen and practise key Christian values. (e.g. love, peace, compassion, forgiveness, self-giving) and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God;
- nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally;
- seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence;
- develop a sense of community within the school, the locality, (e.g. local church) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions;
- foster a concern for the needs of others

### **Objectives**

The objectives of Collective Worship are to:

- affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God
- introduce pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement and prayer
- create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere, including the manner of entry and exit, which is conducive to worship

- encourage a thoughtful and reflective attitude
- help pupils experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness
- enable pupils to use silence for reflection and contemplation
- raise pupils' curiosity about the ultimate mysteries of life
- enable pupils to learn about and consider in depth Christian teaching, Christian festivals and biblical material
- help pupils appreciate that we are 'stewards' of God's world
- enable pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to those of others
- enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- guide children towards the spiritual and religious options open to them
- help children distinguish between right and wrong
- affirm pupils' personal worth and responsibility
- celebrate individual and collective achievements
- develop a sense of community within the school
- celebrate religious festivals and special occasions with specified worship

### **Management of Collective Worship**

**The Governing Body** is responsible for:

- ensuring that the Foundation of the school is honoured and that the worship policy is firmly based upon the intentions set down in the Trust Deed
- ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate Local Governor
- engaging an appropriate inspector to carry out the Section 48 Inspection of a church school alongside the OFSTED Inspection

### **The Role of the Collective Worship Coordinator:**

- assisting the governors and Head Teacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship
- reporting to the Head Teacher and governors on matters of review and development
- communicating with members of the school community regarding the significance and content of collective acts of worship
- ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which is included in the school Improvement Plan and the National Society Toolkit
- developing and maintaining effective procedures for planning, recording, monitoring, evaluating and reviewing collective acts of worship
- being responsive to the needs and views of members of the school community, those of the Christian faith and those of other/no faith

### **Organisation**

Collective Worship takes place daily in the school hall, except on Tuesdays when it is streamed into classrooms whilst we transition out of Covid restrictions

Each week the worship follows a theme planned at the beginning of each term, and are informed by the our school Vision and Values. The structure of worship includes music, a song of praise, a story and a reading from the bible presented in a variety of ways, a period of reflection, and a prayer. Worship is organized according to this simple sequence:

- Gathering
- Engaging

- Responding
- Sending

Day	Who	Led by	Content	In attendance
Monday	Whole School	Headteacher	Values/People of history	2 LSAs –to vary each week
Tuesday	Whole School	Teacher online	Rights Respecting School/People of history other faiths	Class/Phase - with 1 LSA
Wednesday	Singing focus	Teacher	Singing focus	3 LSAs/teachers who are willing to support and sing
Thursday	Whole School	Minister	Christian festival/ Values	1 teacher from each year group. SB or RL to lead.
Friday	Whole School	Teacher	Celebration of Christian values and achievement	Staff appropriate for celebration- may be lots

There are always staff members in attendance at daily worship.

A local minister leads Collective Worship on a Thursday in school or live streamed into classrooms.

Visitors and outside speakers are invited to lead our worship on a regular basis.

### The Worship Team

Children from across KS2 make up the school’s Worship Team. Members of the team volunteer for service or are nominated by staff. They meet once per half term to plan and deliver a session of worship following the whole school themes. In addition, they represent our Hope for Humanity thread of our vision and lead the school in being a ‘light for our community’ sharing God’s love as Jesus taught us when he walked the earth.

### Elements of Worship

There are times when worship is quiet, contemplative and serene and others when laughter, music and dance are appropriate forms of expression. The key elements of Gathering, Engagement, Response and Sending are included in each order of service. (See Appendix 1).

**Atmosphere** is all-important in creating the right foundation for Collective Worship. Quiet, orderly behaviour and respectful attitudes on entering, leaving and throughout the assembly are expected. Staff members enhance the atmosphere by their presence and participation. A covered table with a cross, a bible and a candle help to set the scene.

**Music** is played at the beginning and end of the assembly. One piece is selected each week appropriate to the theme.

**Stories** are carefully chosen to link with the focus school value and to fulfill the objectives of Collective Worship. Personal anecdotes from pupils, teachers and visitors are effective in expressing that which is important in our own lives. Emphasis is placed upon helping children to understand themselves better, to develop empathy and to reflect on and address moral issues.

**Hymns and songs** are chosen from a variety of traditional and modern hymns and choruses and link to our weekly themes. Singing the same hymn every day for a week provides the opportunity for pupils to learn it by heart and to help to immerse them into the worship session and gain a better understanding of the theme.

**Prayer and reflection** are the most personal part of an act of worship. Collective Worship in school should provide opportunities for children to be taken to the threshold of prayer and to cross it, if they wish, in a way that respects the integrity of all present. Participation in prayer can never be imposed but we stress the need for stillness, reflection and respect for others. The Lord's Prayer is said regularly. A large candle is lit and provides a focus for pupils' thoughts. Reflection and thinking time are given some direction by the leader to concentrate pupils' responses.

Monday: Children's contribution / Worship Team

Tuesday: Lord's Prayer

Wednesday: Lord's Prayer

Thursday: Prayer linked to theme

Friday: School Prayer

**'Thought for the Week'** – This is linked to the school value which is the focus at the time. It is shared at the start/throughout each worship session explicitly and is shared in classrooms through the week. Scripture is frequently used, as an inspiration, from the Bible and, where appropriate, from sacred books and writings of other world faiths.

**Presentation** sets the tone within the act of worship. In keeping with the reverent atmosphere, use is also made of visual aids, artefacts, drama, demonstration and video.

## **Content**

Planning for Collective Worship is the responsibility of the coordinator for Collective Worship in collaboration with the school's Worship Team. We use our vision, values and golden threads as a starting point to create our yearly programme and use a variety of resources including those suggested by the Leicestershire Diocese as a starting point. Suggestions and requests from staff are welcomed, whilst input and guidance from the incumbent on the selection of themes is valued. The Singing Lead collaborates in the selection of songs/hymns. We use a mix of traditional hymns and more modern songs (provided by the PopUK website) linked to various values and worship themes have begun to use the which provides songs.

**Themes** might have a specific religious base such as 'miracles of Jesus'; they may wish to reflect a theme common to all religions such as 'creation' or be concerned with common values held by religious and non-religious people alike such as 'humility' or 'sacrifice.'

**Links with R.E. and the broader curriculum** are incorporated wherever possible. Common themes link R.E. and Collective Worship. There is often an overlap between Collective Worship and Personal and Social Education.

## **Resources**

- Staff, pupils, visiting speakers
- Candle and worship table
- Selection of religious artifacts
- Religious/informative websites
- Subscription to RE Today
- Songs / hymns (PopUK website)
- Music for worship
- Digital projector, laptop and other IT equipment

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Themes for Collective Worship are noted on the overview a copy of which is shared with staff at the start of the year. Monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship is carried out by the Coordinator, RE Leader and Governors and the Worship Team members through:

- observation of pupils' engagement and participation
- feedback from pupils, both written and verbal [Each week the Worship Team will gather reflections in the whole school worship book from children at the end of a worship session]
- comments from parents, visitors and governors
- the extent of the influence upon pupils' attitude and behaviour throughout the school day
- staff meetings are used for discussion teachers' professional learning at least twice yearly or more often if necessary.

### **Equal Opportunities**

All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. The school prospectus informs parents of their right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship. Such pupils are fully supervised in another part of the school.

### **Community Cohesion**

In R.E. and Collective Worship, stories are shared and festivals learned about in accordance with the major faiths represented in the UK. An awareness of British values, such as tolerance, individual liberty and respect for and understanding of other religions is actively promoted.

### **Special Assemblies and Visitors**

Within a Christian context, special assemblies are held for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year. Parents, Governors and visitors are especially welcome to attend when the event is held at St Dionysius. Occasionally outside speakers, such as representatives from charitable organisations, will lead these assemblies.

### **Classroom Reflection Areas**

These are a place to engage children in reflection of worship in everyday life and to support them in making connections with the world. Over the year this area will provide a link to our Golden Threads and values.

The areas should have a cross and a candle as the focal point, as well as the 'Thought of the Week'. They should also include other resources, artefacts, pictures and verses linked to the focus.

### **Responding to the Value**

Teachers should encourage children to respond to the value and use post its with comments. This includes reflecting on people demonstrating the values in the class.

### **Reflection areas should include:**

#### **Candle, cross and prayer book**

Each area will have a candle and cross to use during classroom worship. A prayer book can be used for children to write their own prayers or mention something they would like the class to pray for. If appropriate, this can be shared in Collective Worship prayers.

#### **'Thought of the Week'**

This will be introduced in Monday worship and could be the starting point for your reflections each week.

#### **Artefacts, pictures and verses**

Poems, photos, prayers, paintings, natural objects, inspirational quotes, fabric, children's work, questions, Bible, prayer books, provocations (seeds, pebbles, plants, fruit, water), etc.

#### **Community Collection (Hope for Humanity)**

Each area will have a jar to collect small change to donate to an agreed charity project overseen by the Community Team.



**Appendix 1**

**A Collective Worship Planner with themes will be shared with staff to use as a basis for worship in school.**

**Daily Worship Order of Service:**

<p><b><u>Gathering</u></b>                  Quiet, reverent, coming together.  <b>Music:</b> Calming, meditative music can be played to encourage a mood of spiritual reflection.  <b>Open:</b> As the music quietens and pupils are quiet and ready - member of Worship Team opens Worship and lights the candle.                  Worship Leaders to open with <i>'Peace be with you'</i> and then all say, <i>'We light this candle in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit'</i>.</p>
<p><b><u>Engaging</u></b>  <b>Introduction:</b> Introduce or revisit the weekly theme.  <b>Engagement and Response:</b> Establish the connection to the story/main idea. The story might then be read, watched on screen – (YouTube has lots of short films/animations/PowerPoints of bible stories), presented as a drama using the children as actors etc. Use an image to support the story on the big screen - either a single image or power point for example.                  This is mainly linked to a Bible story or Bible reading but not exclusively.</p>
<p><b><u>Responding</u></b>                  There should be a short period of response to the story, either question and answer – (no hands up) – or responses invited from the children.                  Reminder of <i>'Thought of the Week'</i>.</p>
<p><b><u>Reflection</u></b>                  An opportunity for quiet reflection on the theme of the story/reading.</p>
<p><b><u>Prayer</u></b>                  The mood of reflection should continue at the beginning of prayer time for a short period.</p>
<p><b><u>Sending</u></b>                  Worship Team member closes assembly with dismissal: <i>'Go in peace to love and serve'</i>. Children respond, <i>'In the name of Christ'</i> Amen.                  Then they put the candle out.  <b>Hymn/ Song:</b> Children to leave worship singing the hymn/song of the week.</p>