



HOLYCROSS
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY NAME:	Collective Worship policy
DATE AGREED:	August 2021
REVIEW DATE:	August 2024

Collective Worship Policy

This policy outlines the purpose, nature and management of Collective Worship in our school. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the Headteacher and all teaching staff.

It is a legal requirement that schools provide an act of Collective of Worship each day for all pupils. (Education Reform Act 1988). As a Voluntary Aided School our acts of worship will be in accordance with the faith and practices of the Church of England. We understand that “collective” means that the worship is appropriate to a group whose members may have different beliefs. In collective worship, children and adults will be responding to the worship on offer in different ways and at different levels. As it is such an important part of our school life, it is vital that collective worship is an experience in which all members of the school community can participate and from which all gain, no matter what their personal commitment or beliefs. We understand worship to mean attributing honour, value, and worth. In Christian worship this would focus on God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Aims of our Collective Worship are:

- To provide an opportunity to reflect on the nature of God
- To develop and nurture the spiritual dimensions through experiencing worship and to foster feeling of awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate major and other Christian festivals
- To heighten awareness of the ultimate questions/realities of life and to provide the opportunity to reflect on these and to support the search for meaning
- To enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God and to the community and to celebrate gifts, talents and achievements
- To establish and reinforce the common Christian Moral Values such as love, peace, kindness, compassion, forgiveness
- To encourage respect and care for God’s creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues
- To provide children with opportunities for prayer and worship

In accordance with the legal requirement that every child will be provided with a daily act of Collective Worship, every pupil will attend daily collective worship unless their parents or carers exercise their right to request that their child be withdrawn from daily collective worship on religious grounds. Parents wishing to exercise this right must make their request in writing to the Headteacher. Appropriate arrangements for the supervision of pupils will be made in consultation with the Headteacher, teachers, governors and parents. This information should be publicised in the school brochure. All pupils attending Collective Worship are included in collective worship regardless of their background, gender, beliefs, race or ability.

Implementation

The beliefs encompassed in acts of Collective Worship will be those common to all Christians. We will use a variety of materials to meet our aims, including stories from the Bible, secular stories and stories from other cultures. We will use a variety of presentation styles, stimuli and resources. Every act of Collective Worship will include a time of prayer and/or reflective silence, hymn(s) or worship song(s), and teaching which includes learning about Christianity and its beliefs. The Headteacher and all teachers will lead collective worship regularly.

Our Collective Worship will last between 15 and 20 minutes, each day. This will take place in a whole school grouping. Occasionally, Collective Worship may be at the beginning or end of an assembly of a different nature, e.g. charity presentation. Where possible children will contribute to Collective Worship. Worship will at times be led by a class and its teacher.

The school will follow the Acts of Collective Worship as presented by the Diocese of Ely. The plan may change in response to local, national or world events.

Special Assemblies/Acts of Collective worship - These will include the celebration of Christian festivals, class assemblies in church and class sharing assemblies.

We are aware of the need to continually evaluate and review our resources. Additional resources will be called upon when required and when appropriate we will take advantage of the Diocesan collection of resources.

Using people from outside to lead worship - Visitors from other denominations, charitable organisations and the wider community will also be invited to lead worship as appropriate. Such visitors will be acquainted with the school's guidance on our worship policy, details of the current theme for worship and any other worship guidelines.

This policy was compiled with reference to the Diocese of Ely guidelines 'Looking at collective worship'.

This policy will be monitored annually by the Headteacher and reviewed every three years to ensure it continues to meet the aims.