



Policy:	COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY
Policy Date:	Autumn 2024
Review Cycle:	3 Years
Reviewer:	FGB
Next Review:	Autumn 2027

“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God.”
William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury 1942-44

Jesus said "I have come so that you might have life – life in all its fullness." John 10:10

Through our core values of **love, courage** and **fellowship**, and with an enquiry approach to our inter-disciplinary curriculum, our children enjoy learning about themselves, about others and the world which we are guardians of.

These values permeate through our daily lives here at Chawton CE Primary School and they underpin our daily Collective Worship. We nurture a love of learning, celebrate courage to persevere in learning and fellowship through collaboration and recognising each others’ strengths and special qualities.

*“Let all that you do, be done in **love.**” 1 Corinthians 16:14*

*‘Be strong and **courageous**; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.’*
Joshua 1: 5-9

*‘If we walk in the light as He himself is in the light, we have **fellowship** with one another...’ 1 John 1-7*

Introduction

This policy is an agreed statement of the values and aims of Collective Worship Chawton Church of England School.

Worship in our school should:

As worship:

- Should at its simplest create a time and space where we can come closer to God and God can come closer to us
- Be distinctively Christian
- Use and promote the clearly identified core Christian values of the school
- Have **Integrity** as acts of Anglican worship whilst being **Invitational, Inclusive** and **inspirational**
- Be based on Biblical text or themes
- Enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Be central in importance to the life of our school community, which is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world
- Reflect on human existence
- Use the seasons and festivals of the Christian year
- Develop understanding of Anglican traditions and the practice of the local parish church

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For people:

- Develop personal spirituality within the school community through a range of experiences including individual and collective prayer
- Engage pupils and adults with collective worship, making it relevant and transformational to the lives of members of the whole school community
- Celebrate the God given gifts and talents of individuals and the whole school community
- Make a significant contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of members of the school community
- Consider the beliefs and values of others, especially those within the school community
- Raise aspirations of individuals and the school community

To comply:

- Reflect the trust deed
- Be clearly outlined on the school website and documentation
- Involve learners and adults in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship
- Be monitored and evaluated for the impact it has on the school community by foundation governors

Aims

- To promote the joy of worship as engaging, inspiring and transformative.
- To develop spirituality, morality, social and cultural values.
- Sometimes to provide a peaceful environment enabling stillness, reflection and prayer.
- Sometimes to be noisy and joyous with singing, music, dance, drama, gymnastics etc.
- To give an opportunity to acquire a secure knowledge of the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible.
- To understand, celebrate and develop children's knowledge of Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and religious festivals in the Anglican Church's year.
- To appreciate that people, cultures and beliefs differ and to demonstrate respect, tolerance and generosity towards them.
- To develop pupils' sense of self-worth and to provide opportunities to celebrate achievements.
- To develop a caring attitude to others and a sense of community and loyalty.
- To provide opportunities for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate collective worship.
- To invite clergy of the parish, other lay members of the parish and other Christian leaders in the community [as are acceptable to the parish church] to lead worship weekly.

How we achieve our aims

We aim to promote collective acts of worship, which are rich, meaningful experiences that are appropriate and significant to the pupil's needs, age, development and interest by:

- Creating a sense of occasion and reverence following the 4 central attributes of worship.
- Arranging worship at different places when possible, different times with different people and groupings, involving all members of the school community at some time.
- Planning and linking themes which focus on a particular idea/concept, i.e. the liturgical year; RE curriculum, festivals and celebrations, within Christian and other faith traditions, our Christian

values, SCARF and our Personal Development curriculum – celebrating achievements, good progress in learning, attainment and behaviour.

- Using a wide range of resources, devotional aids, artefacts (from religious and secular sources), music, art, drama and external speakers to engage children's interest.
- Encourage children to participate and experience different styles of worship, e.g. prayer, praise, silence, rituals, and become familiar with the language of worship, Biblical readings and liturgy.
- Providing opportunities for pupils to reflect, contemplate on their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using the centrality of prayer – personal silent prayer, personal shared prayers, collective prayers, writing prayers.
- Providing opportunities that develop pupil's awareness of what is beautiful, good, wonderful, awesome and puzzling in life experience.
- Involving pupils and members of the wider community to participate in Collective Worship and activities within the parish.
- Presenting and creating displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas, thoughts and questions.

Central attributes of an act of worship

The School will endeavour to fulfil the legal requirements of 1988 Education Reform Act in conjunction with School's trust deed, by holding 'an act of collective worship every day'.

During Collective Worship, whether in the hall, classroom or outside, we will apply the following 'central attributes' of worship:

Gathering Making special and significant this part of the day through appropriate symbol and ceremony

Engaging Using the best available techniques to stimulate interest in the content

Responding Ensuring there is time and opportunity for individual, group reflection and thought, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways

and in addition

Sending Summarising the worship in a meaningful short message used to create an opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas covered and to conclude the worship

School specific organization:

Monday: Whole School Worship led by the RE Leader and pupils

Tuesday: Class Worship led by Class teachers and/or pupils

Wednesday: Whole School Worship led by members of the Clergy

Thursday: Whole School singing Praise led by the Music Lead

Friday: Whole School Celebration Worship led by the Headteacher with parents regularly invited in to share values or celebrate learning

Collective Worship should be planned systematically, so that there is continuity, variety and clear focus on Christian beliefs and festivals. Worship is led by a variety of people that include school staff, pupils, Governors, representatives from the parish church, members of different faith communities and members of the local community.

The centrality of prayer

During the Collective Worship there will be a time for response and reflection, to ponder on a question, statement or thought. This may also be reflected in a prayer, offered spontaneously by a pupil or adult, read out or recited. This prayer can be displayed and used in class and school reflective areas so that:

- Children understand the nature and purpose of prayer.
- Children understand the part prayer may play in their lives and the life of the school community.
- Prayer contributes to the spiritual development of individuals and the whole school community.

There will also be appropriate opportunities for prayer and other worship activities, including reflection, outside of Collective Worship.

Each class has a 'reflective area' to engage and promote individual pupils and adults, as well as designated special spaces around the school.

Management and organisation of resources

The Headteacher plans worship on a termly basis, with input from pupils, teachers, members of the parish church and reflections / feedback from pupils, staff, governors and parents.

Resources and artefacts are available from the Headteacher's Office and school library.

All classes have access to prayer books and Bibles, as well as the class set of Bibles in the library.

A board is displayed in the hall, highlighting the focus and theme of Collective Acts of Worship, music and prayer. This is also shared in classrooms.

The School's office area displays our distinctive ethos and Christian values.

Communication

The weekly school newsletter contains the half termly value and further detail about our weekly Collective Worship theme, prayer and/or Bible reading so parents are always informed about the worship taking place in school.

Some parents will value this personally and may discuss and reflect on the worship at home with their child.

Information about school Collective Worship is also provided to the local parish church so parishioners can be informed about the worship in school.

Parental involvement

Parents are actively encouraged to participate in Collective Acts of Worship, church services and Celebration Worships. They are informed in advance on our school newsletter, and are always welcome even when not planned to be a Celebration Worship.

Legal status of collective worship

All maintained schools in England must provide a daily Act of Collective Worship.

In a Church of England School, worship must be in line with the trust deed of the school and will reflect the traditions of the Church of England, i.e. the Anglican tradition.

Right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily Act of Collective Worship. Schools must comply with this wish and must ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

The school will respect parental requests and will try to discuss the request to see if an accommodation can be reached and to ensure Collective Worship remains inclusive and invitational and open to all members of the school community.

Responsibilities

The normal expectation within our church school is for all staff to view daily Collective Worship as an important part of their own well-being and spiritual development as human beings. The school will, therefore, endeavour to timetable staff so all have an opportunity to attend regularly.

At interview all applicants are invited to confirm that they are comfortable with and supportive of the inclusive ethos of our Church of England school and willing to respect and work in sympathy with the Christian ethos and values of the school.

The school welcomes offers from any member of staff who wishes to lead worship, and encourages all to take an active role in worship. The Headteacher is responsible for co-ordinating the programme of induction and training for staff.

The person responsible for collective worship is the Headteacher

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of Collective Acts of Worship, is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on a termly basis.

All who deliver worship will be observed on a half-termly basis, as outlined in the Governor Visit plan. This process supports the school's self-evaluation, is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body.

Pupils are also involved in evaluating Collective Worship through feedback to the Headteacher, weekly class worship, questionnaires and pupil conferencing.

All leaders of Collective Worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

Review

In line with our policy review cycle, this policy will be reviewed every three years, or earlier if changes are made to the SIAMS Evaluation Schedule.

References to 'parish' refer to the local parish church which the school is linked to. This is the parish named in the Instrument of Government for the school (IoG). The vicar will be the 'principal officiating minister' of the named parish.