



Collective Worship Policy

Category: Non-Statutory.	Approved by: Teaching Learning & Care Committee
Approved: July 2024	Next Approval due: July 2027
Initial Review by: Head Teacher	Formal Review by: Teaching Learning & Care Committee
Linked Policies: Assessment, Curriculum, Religious Education policies.	

When monitoring and reviewing we ensure compliance with the school's Equality Policy

Our Christian vision:

Built on the rock of Christian faith, we work as a community to create an environment which enables all to flourish. Jesus welcomed all and we embrace diversity, celebrating our different gifts and successes. Like St Peter, we are motivated by our values, learn from our mistakes and strive for the best outcome for everyone.

INTRODUCTION

Collective worship is central to the life of Woolhampton School, it offers the pupils and others in our school an opportunity to gather as a whole school community and reflect on values; of respect, optimism, compassion and Koinonia. These values are known in the school as ROCK and shape our approach to 'enabling all to flourish.' We warmly invite all members of our school community to join our worship. This is a precious time of peace and respect.

Our Collective Worship has 3 underlying principles:

1. It is inclusive and contributes to the moral, social and cultural development of all pupils.
2. It is invitational and respects the dignity of all participants.
3. It is inspiring and combines a range of experiences.

While the vast majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian and stem from the Bible, we also tell stories that reflect our broad moral themes and are from other religions.

POLICY STATEMENT

Aims and Objectives

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- Celebrating -
 - Christian seasons and festivals;
 - school values associated with our vision;

- pupils' and adults' achievements, successes and goodness;
- experience prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer;
- create a reflective approach to life including the exploration of deep questions
- develop as a community centered on our clear and distinctive Christian vision
- experience a variety of styles of worship;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship;
- feel safe and affirmed;
- worship God on their own terms.

Worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth;
- enable participants to consider moral questions in a Christian context;
- enhance social understanding and encourage responses to issues through courageous advocacy;
- give participants a chance to reflect on the place and importance of faith in the lives of people today;
- encourage participants to explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage;
- reflect the teachings of Jesus and a trinitarian theology in particular with song and prayer and our Christian Seasons..

Pattern of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship in our school. Collective Worship takes place in a variety of groupings, in the school hall, in classrooms, outside and in St Peter's Church. We follow the seasons of the Church year and within these significant festivals and other special days are observed. These include Harvest, Christmas, Candlemas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost. Other important days in the school calendar such as Remembrance and the Leavers' Service also feature in our Collective Worship. We celebrate St Peter's Day on June 29th, where we dedicate a day to reflect on what we can learn from Peter the disciple.

Leading Worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church Community. Pupils are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year and our Collective Worship Leaders play an active role in planning and preparing to lead worship. Visitors are welcome to contribute to Collective Worship from time to time and are given guidance from this policy. Leaders from different faiths help us to increase the pupils' awareness and celebrate diversity.

Parents are invited to special Collective Worship throughout the year. This promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way home and the school work together to support the hard work and achievements of our children.

We welcome Governors and school staff to attend our worship at any time.

Planning Worship

Our Acts of Worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme and the needs of the pupils. The themes of worship are chosen to both express and explore our vision and the

way this is experienced in school through the associated values. Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as dance and drama alongside more traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song. We will also introduce pupils to a range of approaches to worship.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote participants' thinking beyond the time given

to worship itself. We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending worship. We ask that parents contact the Headteacher to discuss this.

Monitoring and review

Collective Worship is regularly evaluated by the children, staff and governing body for impact and improvement. This is done through discussion, observation and reflection which feeds into planning for future worship.

This policy will be reviewed every three years in line with the school's procedures.