



Federation of Beckwithshaw and Kettlesing Felliscliffe Schools and Ripley Endowed CE School.

Ripley Endowed CE School Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school and reaffirms our vision:

We work together (share) with reliance and support (trust) so that we can all flourish (aspire) in a world where everyone's talents, skills and experiences are recognised (respect). **'Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing'** 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Our worship also reinforces our agreed associated Christian values of Friendship, Trust, Hope, Reverence and Respect

Collective Worship 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 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 Aided and 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 p.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 values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

In line with the requirements of 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 spiritually 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, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- 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 and 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 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's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- 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

Planning Worship (see Appendix 1)

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils and the incumbent of our local church. External visitors, (for example the local Methodist minister who leads a worship and Godly Play sessions) follow our planning.

This act of worship takes place first thing in the morning of the school day (with the exception class worship) and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class. Our school plans worship systematically and cohesively using the Christian Values material. Resources are adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. 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 this policy as well as our school visitor and safeguarding policies. This should include discussing the content of any worship with the collective worship leader in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

When planning, stakeholders are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including music, silence, dance, drama, mime and jubilant voice.

Expectations of pupils

Expectations of pupil behaviour are commensurate with our whole school behaviour policy.

The Worship Committee regularly plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the collective worship leader and Rev Paul to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers.

Developing Worship

The school allocates part of its budget to support collect worship. Governors recognise the need for professional development of staff in the review and delivery of collective worship and ensure training is offered on both an individual and whole staff basis. The collective worship leader attends regular professional development with the Diocese of Leeds and accesses the support of the named adviser through the Enhanced Service Plan to ensure that worship is inclusive, invitational and inspirational.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Our school regularly evaluates the breadth of acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order for worship to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through the form of questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with Distinctiveness Committee and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

The legal requirements of collective worship in Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools.

- Be conducted in accordance with the provision of the Trust Deeds of the school and Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England
- The Governing Body should ensure that all pupils **each day** engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship which is in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church
- Arrangements for collective worship, in foundation schools of a religious character, are the responsibility of the Governing Body, after consulting with the head teacher (*DfE Circular 1/94 para 52 & 53*)
- 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 Withdrawal

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.

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Appendix 1: The Rhythm of Worship at Ripley Endowed

The following pattern is followed, providing a daily rhythm to our worship

Gathering	<p>We aim to ensure children 'cross a threshold' into worship. We gather in worship to music. The music plays as the children arrive as a 'call' to worship.</p> <p>The worship group recite the following: As I place the Bible on the table, we think about. The children respond, God the father who teaches us with his words. As we place the cross on the Bible, we think about; God's son Jesus who loves us. As we place the candle on the table, we think about; God the Holy Spirit who guides us.</p> <p>We may also start by lighting the candle and reciting the following liturgy: ' May God the Father bless us, May God the Son take care of us and May God the Holy Spirit guide us, Amen'. Whoever leads worship begins with the greeting: 'Welcome to our worship, peace be with you' children and adults respond with 'and also with you'.</p>
Engaging	We aim to stimulate the interest of children through a range of storytelling, drama, activities, poetry, videos, slides and jubilant voice around a single simple focus.
Actively responding	In every worship session, children and adults will have an opportunity to respond to the focus of the worship. This may simply be through prayer and reflection. In class worship time we encourage children to respond to the theme on an individual basis.
Sending	Worship always ends with the words, 'The Lord bless us and keep us'. Children and adults respond with Amen . The candle (if lit) is blown out. Children leave to music playing and return to their classes/

The following ongoing weekly pattern is generally followed:

Monday	9.10 am	Base Leader leads worship to introduce the theme, song and set the tone for the week.
Tuesday	9.10 am	Class Teacher leads worship.
Wednesday	9.10 am	Class Teacher Leads worship (Rev. Paul every fortnight leads worship).
Thursday	To suit class	Class Worship: Staff lead their own worship to ensure pupil participation and responses are more precisely tailored to the particular class– thoughts, prayers and reflections to be captured in reflection books/areas. Once each half term pupils in each class plan and deliver worship, to which parents are invited.
Friday	9.10 am	Celebrations– a worship which recognise the talents and gifts held in school and offer them to God's service.