



# Collective Worship Policy

Policy Owner : East Ravendale Church of England Primary School

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At East Ravendale Church of England Primary School, collective worship is an integral part of our school day. We blend Christian teaching and Values Education to create opportunities for children to explore and develop their social, moral, spiritual and cultural understanding so that their well-being is supported by ever growing emotional intelligence. The worship in school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school:

### **Wonder, Belief, Joy**

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.
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes.
- Share each other's joys and challenges.
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.

### **Organisation:**

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for our children.

Monday: Whole school worship led by the Executive Headteacher or Head of School

Tuesday: Whole school worship led by member of clergy/staff

Wednesday: Class based worship led by the class teacher (Lyfta)

Thursday: Whole school singing assembly led by Head of School

Friday: Whole school celebration worship led by the Executive Headteacher

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school to lead worship, and the whole school regularly attend St Martin's Church for weekly worship and special/liturgical celebrations throughout the school year.



### **Planning, Content and Detail:**

Themes for Collective Worship are planned in consultation with staff, pupils and Reverend Kimberly. The 3 core values of wonder, belief and joy underpin the termly themes:

Autumn – Wonder

Spring – Belief

Summer – Joy

Themes reflect the school ethos, the Church Calendar and current events. Biblical references are woven through the daily schedule and children are regularly included in the act of worship.

The worship and reflection table follows the colours of the Liturgical Year, the passage from the Bible for the day's focus is displayed.

The candle is lit as children gather, and all are welcomed.

A story or Bible verse is read to the children, or read by children. Children respond to the story, asking and answering questions in order to deepen their understanding and engagement.

Collective Worship always includes a prayer and a time for reflection. A range of prayers are used including the School Prayer, the Lord's Prayer and prayers written by the children.

Collective worship ends with a song and children lead out to music.

Our celebration worship on a Friday celebrates the pupils' achievements both in and out of school. Staff choose members of their class to receive a 'Star of the Week' award, and also a member of their class who has been seen using the 'value of the term' as 'Values in Action'.

### **Other faiths:**

Although our worship reflects Christian beliefs and traditions, we are committed to respecting each other's beliefs, faith and culture. We recognise the importance of our shared British Values and regularly discuss, share and explore these through our worship themes. Class-led worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect their studies in RE.

### **Record Keeping and Evaluation:**

A record of the themes or worship, including stories and pupil engagement is kept on the shared drive. This file is regularly updated by the Head Teacher. Training is welcomed and encouraged for those who wish to lead worship and further develop their own skills.



### **Visits and Visitors:**

As part of a broad and well-balanced curriculum, East Ravendale C of E Primary School ensures that appropriate visits and visitors are made for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences. We believe that visits to places of worship enable pupils to gain a greater knowledge of worship, beliefs and traditions. Our Year 6 pupils take part in the Church Schools Festival each year at Lincoln Cathedral, and we utilise St Martin's Church regularly by celebrating annual events such as Harvest, Ash Wednesday, Advent and Easter.

### **Right to Withdrawal:**

Should a parent wish to withdraw their child from Collective Worship a request must be made to the Head Teacher. Parents have a legal right to withdraw their child for religious reasons and as such suitable provision will be made.

### **Equal Opportunities and Special Needs:**

All pupils, regardless of ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding, engagement and enjoyment of Collective Worship.