



East Ravendale C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

At East Ravendale, we strive to develop independent, self-motivated and inquisitive learners of all ages. We celebrate our uniqueness and value all as God's children. We aim to give all members of our community opportunities to succeed, now and in the future, knowing they are safe and valued.

Our vision is underpinned by our core values of **wonder, belief** and **joy**.

"I can do all things through God who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

Approval Date:

Date Adapted by Governing Board:

Review Date:

Person Responsible:

What is Collective Worship?

Worship can be defined as paying homage to (revering) that which is of worth ('Worth-ship.'). Religious Worship is the acknowledgement of 'worth' which is attributable to a supreme being.

Therefore, in Church of England schools, opportunities should be provided for pupils and adults to offer worship to God, through Jesus Christ. We can never make anyone worship because it is an attitude of the heart focused on God; in a school situation we should seek to lead people to the threshold of worship by providing a setting where they may worship God if they so wish.

Collective worship is therefore different both to school assembly and to corporate worship (see definitions below).

School Assembly is a gathering of the school community; it is often used to celebrate and focus on the life and values of the community itself and is without religious content.

Collective Worship is a term only used in schools. It is an act of worship that should be inclusive of everybody, invitational in nature, with an open invitation to participate. It differs in this aspect from voluntary, corporate church worship. There are no assumptions made about shared belief during collective worship, even in a church school. The 1944 Education Act requires schools 'to provide a daily act of collective worship' and it remains a compulsory aspect of daily school life to this day.

The Legal Requirements

We seek to comply with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each school day take part in an act of Collective Worship.
- The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be '*wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character*'.ⁱ
- Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, tutor groups, classes, or other combinations.
- Acts of worship must be appropriate for **all** in that they should be inclusive, invitational and inspiring taking account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises, but all schools are able to hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
- Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school rests with the Governing Body in consultation with the headteacher.

School Vision and Aims of Collective Worship

At East Ravendale, we strive to develop independent, self-motivated and inquisitive learners of all ages. We celebrate our uniqueness and value all as God's children. We aim to give all members of our community opportunities to succeed, now and in the future, knowing they are safe and valued.

Our vision is underpinned by our core values of wonder, belief and joy.

"I can do all things through God who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

Collective worship in a Church of England school is a vital expression of the school's Christian character, offering a daily opportunity for the whole community to come together in reflection, prayer, and shared experience. At East Ravendale, collective worship is central to the life of the school and serves as a platform for exploring and deepening understanding of the school's vision and values. Collective worship is rooted in Christian tradition, it draws on the teachings of Jesus and a range of biblical references, while remaining invitational and inclusive of all who are present.

Through carefully planned and meaningful acts of worship, pupils and adults are encouraged to reflect on their own beliefs, develop a sense of awe, wonder and joy, whilst growing spiritually. Collective worship also fosters a sense of belonging, promoting respect, compassion and moral responsibility within the school community and beyond.

For Christians in church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of adults and pupils.

However, in East Ravendale C of E Primary School, the purpose of collective worship will be to invite people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish. Through collective worship, pupils and adults will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils and adults will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar and those of other faiths. Pupils and adults will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually. Collective worship in our school is invitational, inspirational and inclusive.

Our worship has 3 underlying principles:

1. It is inclusive and contributes to the spiritual flourishing of all pupils and adults. It also 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 offers a range of experiences of Christian worship

It is invitational

Acts of collective worship will:

- ❖ nurture and maintain the dignity of the image of God in everyone through working for social justice
- ❖ encourage pupils to consider the needs of others through charitable service and courageous advocacy;
- ❖ nurture reflection, stillness, meditation and prayer;
- ❖ provide pupils and adults with (age-appropriate) opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images and words.
- ❖ provide a sense of occasion that is separate from the rest of the school day;
- ❖ foster an appreciation of the natural world and our shared responsibilities for maintaining it;
- ❖ develop clear partnerships between worship in the school and the wider community.

It is inclusive

Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. Thus, we welcome children and adults of all faiths and none to our worship. Through their Christian character, our acts of collective worship will:

- ❖ recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, life styles, faiths and beliefs which exist in our school and local community;
- ❖ have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
- ❖ be appropriate for every student to attend;
- ❖ focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the pupils;
- ❖ foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community – in preparation, participation and leadership.

It is inspiring

Our acts of collective worship provide wider opportunities to:

- ❖ promote wide ownership of our Christian vision;
- ❖ assist learners to have increased awareness and to reflect upon fundamental issues about life;

- ❖ enhance, complement and extend curricular work;
- ❖ develop pupils' understanding of the Christian faith and Church (Anglican) practice through appropriate Biblical and liturgical content;
- ❖ encounter and explore Jesus' teachings and the trinitarian nature of Christian faith;
- ❖ identify opportunities for Christian celebration which can be associated with other school events;
- ❖ include appropriate references to and elements of other faiths and secular worldviews;
- ❖ include opportunities to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils.

Worship is planned in relationship to our distinctive Christian vision and our associated values. A range of people are involved in planning and leading worship, including pupils. Timetabling of acts of worship includes engagement with the local church community and various groupings of pupils. Worship is regularly evaluated by a range of members of the school community. In addition, there are a range of opportunities for worship, prayer and reflection throughout the day.

Right to Withdraw

We acknowledge the right of parents/guardians to withdraw their children from Collective Worship and of teachers to withdraw from leading Collective Worship. We acknowledge that parents/guardians/teachers do not need to provide a reason why they wish to withdraw from Collective Worship. Should a parent/guardian wish to withdraw their child from Collective Worship or a teacher wishes to refuse to lead Collective Worship, we ask that they inform the school, via the enquiries@eastravendale.laat.co.uk

We will endeavour to communicate clearly the inclusive nature of Collective Worship for pupils of all faiths and none, as well as its role in supporting the school's vision and values, ensuring that parents have all the necessary information. However, should a parent or guardian request that their child be withdrawn from Collective Worship, we will not attempt to persuade them to change their decision.

If a pupil is withdrawn from Collective Worship, the school is required to provide appropriate supervision but should not incur any additional cost in doing so.

Any queries regarding withdrawal from Collective Worship should be directed to the Head teacher.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

We are committed to equality of opportunity for everyone, including those who share protected characteristics. We therefore aim to make collective worship accessible to all and accommodate individual needs when appropriate. Please see our Accessibility Plan, SEND policy and Inclusion / Equality Policy for further information.

Planning and organisation

The organisation of our Daily Worship

Every worship consists of the following structure –

G- Gathering, This is the point at which the school community comes together and transitions into a time of worship, e.g. lighting a candle to signify Jesus being the light of the world, playing reflective music as we enter.

E – Engage, We introduce the theme and engage pupils with a message linked to the school's vision, values and Christian teachings. e.g. Bible story/teachings of Jesus, a short story, video clip or drama, discussion, exploring how the theme relates to real life experiences.

R – Respond, This provides an opportunity for personal reflection or spiritual response. e.g. Saying a prayer, quiet reflection, invitation to think about how this applies to their real lives.

S – Send, The closing stage where pupils are encouraged to take the message out into their daily lives. e.g. final blessing or sending prayer, a challenge linked to the theme, a song or hymn reinforcing the message, reaffirming the schools value or focus.

Monday – Whole school worship led by Headteacher, Mrs Farr

Tuesday – Whole school worship led by member of clergy, Rev.Cummins or Senior Teacher, Mr Brown

Wednesday – Whole school singing worship led by Headteacher, Mrs Farr

Thursday - Individual class worship led by class teachers or Tina Barnes-Browne (HLTA)

Friday – Celebration worship led by Headteacher, Mrs Farr (parents welcome)

A termly overview for worship is planned each term in conjunction with SLT, Collective Worship Leader, children and local clergy.

- ❖ Collective worship is planned using the church calendar and the calendars of other faiths.
- ❖ A clear liturgy is followed for each act of collective worship.
- ❖ For each act of collective worship, a Bible reading, song and prayer are carefully planned to link with the theme of worship.
- ❖ A time of reflection is planned as part of the worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, will be undertaken by pupils, staff, and members of the Academy Committee on a termly basis. All who deliver worship will be observed on a termly basis. This process supports the school's self-evaluation and is reported to the whole Academy Committee. Pupils are also involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in weekly class worship, questionnaires and pupil voice. All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Academy Committee (the Trust's governing body) should:

- ❖ provide a statement within the school prospectus which makes clear that the aims of collective worship within the school are based on its Christian foundation and includes parents' legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship;
- ❖ ensure that the school fulfills its legal responsibility for collective worship;
- ❖ in conjunction with the Headteacher and Trust Education Development Adviser, monitor and evaluate the impact of collective worship within the school and make recommendations for its development in accordance with the SIAMS Inspection Framework.

The Headteacher/Collective Worship Leader should:

- ❖ set themes for the year
- ❖ observe acts of worship led by different people as part of monitoring and evaluation processes
- ❖ develop a pupil-led monitoring and evaluation process
- ❖ facilitate pupil feedback
- ❖ regularly monitor and evaluate outcomes
- ❖ report on collective worship to the Academy Committee
- ❖ implement collective worship development points with regard to training and resources
- ❖ annual review to feed into ongoing planning of collective worship

Pupils Leading Collective Worship should:

- ❖ have opportunities to plan and lead collective worship
- ❖ have opportunities for pupil voice in order to suggest new ideas for collective worship
- ❖ contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of collective worship in the school
- ❖ promote collective worship within the school

Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of collective worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general, the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

Conclusion

Collective worship is the heartbeat of our school community and provides a range of ways for pupils and adults to flourish spiritually. If you have any questions or concerns regarding collective worship in our school, please contact the Collective Worship Lead in the first instance.

ⁱ *Education Reform Acts 1998 section 7(1) and the corresponding section of the Education Act 1993*