

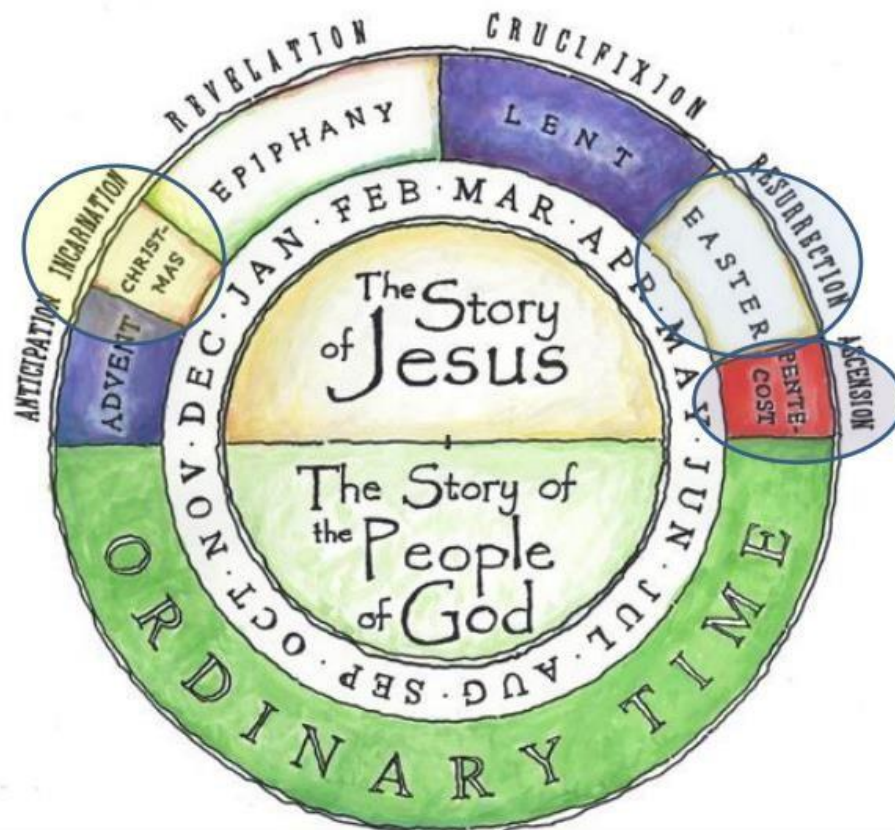


*Be our best selves*

# COUGHTON

**C of E Primary School**

# Collective Worship Policy



**Adopted June 2021**

**Reviewed: July 2025**

**Next Review: June 2029**

Church of England Schools are committed to offering high quality collective worship. It is seen as the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. At Coughton, worship is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifies the principles of Christian hospitality. We seek to meet the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief.

## **1 Aims and purpose**

**1.1** The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To repeatedly explore the school's vision(Be our Best Selves) and how it underpins our shared values and virtues and make continuous connections between these and Bible stories.
- To support pupils and adults to encounter faith through conversations.
- To help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible
- To develop understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God.
- To offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- To enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways (using music, silence, story, prayer and reflection)
- To support pupils and adults in learning about the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- To enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship

## **2 Collective worship**

Collective worship reflects the Anglican status of Coughton C of E Primary School and builds upon the rich, lived diversity of Anglican tradition and identity. In the same way as worship in churches is aspirational, constantly evolving and being re-imagined, there is an expectation of a continuous, dynamic reimagining of what collective worship means at Coughton.

Collective Worship at Coughton is inclusive and invitational. We seek to meet the needs of all so that they may flourish on their own personal journey of spirituality, faith and belief. Collective worship links to all of our values (Christian and British), it fosters a sense of community and is a way to express our Christian Vision.

Children take part in daily Collective Worship, whether this is as a whole school, with their key stage or in class. The rhythm of daily worship invites children to enter a space for reflection and spiritual development.

### **2.1 Inclusive**

Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning and responding to others and, for some, to God. Pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care

is taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching. It will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. Inclusion also ensures pupil involvement in planning, leading and evaluating worship. Worship reflects the faith, belief and ethnic communities that our school serves and validates, embraces and celebrates all protected characteristics.

## **2.2 Invitational**

At Coughton, parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. Worship provides the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and engage with integrity. The metaphor of 'warm fires and open doors' captures this idea- it is important that the door is open, all are welcome, to come in and sit as near or as far away from the fire as they feel comfortable. Pupils and adults are invited to pray, if they wish to do so and in their own way. An option to reflect is also given.

## **2.3 Inspiring**

Pupils and adults of the Coughton community can expect the worship they encounter to be inspirational. It enables big questions to be asked about who we are and what we do. We aim to inspire pupils, their parents and other adults to become courageous advocates of causes. It will encourage different thinking about their faith, beliefs and/ or philosophical convictions. Being our Best selves is lived out daily through collective worships, inspiring young people through the miracles and stories from the Holy Bible.

## **3. Organisation of collective worship**

The rhythm of daily worship allows pupils and adults to 'step away' and enter a space for an encounter with faith and God. It also provides an opportunity to reflect on larger questions of meaning and purpose.

- 3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This may be with the whole school community or with a Phase in the hall. It also may be held within the classroom in class groups.
- 3.2 A long term Collective Worship plan is in place. This takes into account the liturgical year, the schools Values (Christian and British) and specific special days across the school year. A Collective Worship Timetable is written and shared with staff at the beginning of each term. The Headteacher and RE lead in conjunction with the Rector of St Peter's Church, manage the Collective Worship timetable and the planning of the theme of Collective Worship at Coughton C of E Primary School. Copies of the timetable are provided for all staff so that all staff are aware of the breadth, balance, continuity and coverage of Collective Worship at School.
- 3.3 Planning is based around a four stage structure of: Welcoming, Learning, Reflecting and Responding. We also build in time for evaluation of worship.
- 3.4 The SLT conducts worship weekly, in addition other staff, local clergy and other

representatives of local religious groups also lead worship throughout the year. Pupils also lead worship focused on courageous advocacy projects or significant times in the liturgical calendar.

- 3.5 Our Celebration Worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children and gives the opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school and the wider community. It offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and highlights our school vision of Being Our Best Selves. Celebration Assemblies play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. The school vision is shared during each celebration with parents and other stakeholders.
- 3.6 We welcome governors' attendance at our Collective Worship and Celebration Worship at any time.
- 3.7 We welcome families attendance at our Celebration Worship (every Friday)

#### **4. Right of withdrawal**

4.1 There will always be those who are uncomfortable to enter through the open door of worship and the Church of England recognises the right of withdrawal from collective worship for those parents or pupils who wish to exercise this option. We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

4.2 The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship.

#### **5. Prayer life of our school**

5.1 Prayer is an important part of daily life at Coughton. Prayers are consistently shared in each classroom.

5.2 We have dedicated prayer spaces around the school that provide opportunity for an encounter with God. Our prayer spaces invite you to be drawn into prayer and stillness through your senses. They are places for discovery, for private reflection, intention and thanksgiving.

5.3 See appendix for prayers used regularly within the school week.

## 6. Monitoring and review

6.1 It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.

