



Elm Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Review date: September 2025

“Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

Mark 4:30-32

Here at Elm C of E Primary School, Collective Worship represents a powerful way to develop and establish our school vision for all children to, 'grow in faith'.

A Legal Requirement of a Church School

All schools must provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. The aim of collective worship is to develop pupils socially, morally, spiritually and culturally. [The 1994 legal framework](#) documentation regarding collective worship still stands and added to this is the requirement to promote British values as part of SMSC in the Ofsted framework.

Arrangements for collective worship are the responsibility of the governors in consultation with the Head teacher. There are three main legal requirements for collective worship:

- Collective worship in a church school should be carried out in accordance with the school's founding Trust Deed.
- The act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or classes.
- A statement must be shared with parents which makes it clear that they may withdraw their children from collective worship. This statement can be found in this policy. Should children be withdrawn, the school must provide adequate supervision to ensure their safety.

It is important to note that Worship in our school is more than just a legal requirement; it is an integral part of school life and central to our school vision.

Aims and purpose of Collective Worship at Elm C of E Primary School :

The aims and purposes of Collective Worship at our school are:

- To enable children to 'grow in faith'.
- To highlight and nurture spirituality through experiencing corporate worship.
- To provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an ecumenical experience of a wide variety of worship, including experiences from Christians around the world.
- To grow in liturgical understanding.
- To provide an opportunity for reflection.
- To establish, explore and reinforce the Christian values of the school.
- To join together to celebrate Christian festivals.
- To enable the children to appreciate their unique worth and value to God, and to the community, and to respect the integrity of all the individuals as a child of God.
- To celebrate gifts, talents and achievements.
- To provide an opportunity to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, particularly the church.
- To provide an opportunity to bring before God in prayer, personal needs and those of others.

Organisation and Planning of Collective Worship

The Senior Leadership Team coordinate the planning of collective worship in school, and there is a designated 'Collective Worship Team' who supports them in this role. Collective Worship follows the GERS approach to Collective Worship : Gathering, Engaging, Responding and Sending.

Collective Worship is at 8.45am each day of the week.

We take the half termly themes of our collective worship from **key** values of the Christian Faith; Love, Respect, Trust, Respect and Courage. These can be seen displayed in the corridor of our school and the focus value each half term is displayed alongside images and bible references which reflect the value. We endeavour to nurture these in our children and we hope the impact of the teaching of these, will flourish in the children as they journey through school and life. Our planning also reflects the cycle of the Anglican Church Year, and includes Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost. A more detailed outline of collective worship themes, including our vision, can be seen in our overview of collective worship for the school year.

Pupils are involved in leading collective worship. This may include saying greetings and responses, lighting a candle, saying a prayer during the time together or by leading the singing of a song. KS2 children also plan whole school collective worship and deliver this to their peers. We use our school prayer and the Lord's Prayer regularly in worship. Once a fortnight we are joined by Open-the-Book.

We hold a daily act of worship in our school hall or in classrooms which includes all members of staff. Our worship spaces have key Christian symbols such as crosses and candles. The hall space has an altar that is dressed in the appropriate colour of the church calendar as well as a cross and candle. We have a weekly timetable to allow for a range of worship experiences.

We use varying types of worship experiences, which may include prayer, music, silence, Bible reading, stories, dance, puppets and songs. An appropriate atmosphere is created by using music and candles. We give our children time to reflect on what they have heard and encourage them to respond in some way.

We hold collective acts of worship on festival days throughout the school year at All Saints Church, Elm. At Harvest, Easter and Christmas, and the end of the school year, parents and friends of Elm C of E Primary School, are invited to join with our school community to celebrate. We hold termly Eucharist services and these are supported and led by our school vicar.

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the Headteacher and Governors to monitor the policy, planning and practice of Collective Worship regularly. Planning is evaluated on a regular basis and we welcome school governors to our collective worship at any time. We have a link governor that is responsible for feedback, evaluation and monitoring of collective worship which is done termly in school.

There are opportunities for children to feedback on the collective worship theme and children are also asked about their thoughts on Collective Worship through a questionnaire, and these evaluations are used to inform planning and practice.

Right of withdrawal

We have an inclusive ethos in our school and like all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending an act of worship. Following discussion with the Head teacher, the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of a child during this period of time. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1994 Education Act.

The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who are withdrawn from collective worship.