


Collective Worship Procedure and Guidelines

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ch. Megawse', written in a cursive style.

Headteacher

Dated: March 2025

Review: May 2028

The purpose of this policy is to support the continual school improvement and the raising of standards in attainment and achievement for all our pupils. In line with the school vision we strive to ensure that all are able to 'Thrive and achieve in a caring Christian community'.

1. Rationale

Worship is a key activity of the school supporting our Christian ethos and vision and underpinned by our Christian Values (Trust, Wisdom, Fellowship, Compassion, Peace, Friendship) It is our aim to provide the school community with opportunities to reflect on past, present and future successes.

Worship is also an important value in the school as we recognise God's presence with us in life's successes and challenges.

These guidelines also conform to the legal requirements for Collective Worship set out in the School Standards and Frameworks Act 1998.

2. Right of Withdrawal

In accordance with Section 71 of the above named act, parents may exercise their right to withdraw their child(ren) from Collective Worship. Parents wishing to exercise this right should first of all discuss their thoughts with the headteacher. Should they wish to withdraw their children from collective worship following this discussion they must confirm their desire for their children to be removed in writing.

3. Daily Worship

There should, normally, be three periods of worship during the school day.

1. Daily school or class assembly (c. 20 minutes)
2. Prayers of thanks before lunch (c. 5 minutes)
3. Close of day prayer and reflection (c. 5 minutes)

When worship does not take place as a whole-school activity then it is the responsibility of the class-teacher to ensure that worship takes place.

Where school or class assembly take part at the end of a session this may be combined with the normal end of session prayers. This should be made clear to the children and in these circumstances would normally include the use of the school standard prayers.

3.1 School or Class Assembly:

The times of daily worship will be arranged by the head teacher in consultation with the staff but the pattern for the daily assembly will normally be as follows:

Monday: Whole School Headteacher's Assembly

Tuesday: Whole School Singing worship

Wednesday: Class worship - (the time for this must be clearly shown in weekly timetables.)

Thursday: Clergy Assembly/ monthly Family Worship in Church

Friday: Celebration Assembly

The theme and content for school worship will be published termly by the headteacher in the form of a schedule for the term. This is shared with the Clergy team. There may be significant current events that require a change to the published theme, the headteacher will consult staff where this is the case. Worship is of a predominantly Christian nature and we welcome members of other faiths.

Family Worship

The Thursday Assembly, led by the Clergy, is held at St Stephen and St Agnes' Church once a month, this is referred to as Family Worship. This service is open to friends of the school.

3.1.1 Supervision during School assembly:

It is the responsibility of the teacher in charge of the class to ensure that children are prepared for worship and enter the assembly space respectfully. The teacher should ensure that the children remain still and prepared until the assembly begins. All classroom staff should attend worship led by the Headteacher and the Clergy unless previously arranged with the headteacher.

3.1.2 Attendance by staff and volunteers (including governors:)

There is an open invitation to ALL staff and volunteers who would normally be in school to participate in any act of collective worship.

Members of support staff (including office staff, lunchtime staff etc.) are invited to attend worship at least once every (short) term. This enables them to participate fully in the life of the school.

There is an expectation that foundation governors will attend worship at least once a year as part of their responsibility for upholding the school's foundation.

3.2 Prayers of thanks before lunch

It is a requirement that before the morning session ends pupils are led in a few moments in stillness reflecting on the morning's learning before they give thanks for the food they are about to eat at lunchtime.

The pupils will be taught and will normally use the school standard lunchtime prayer but the class teacher (or other responsible adult) may at their discretion use other prayers or invite the children to lead the class in prayer

3.3 Close of day prayer and reflection

It is a requirement that before the afternoon session ends pupils are led to spend some time in stillness reflecting on their successes during the day and on any advice they've been given about next steps. This time should end with a short prayer.

Pupils will be taught and will normally use a school standard end of day prayer, but the class teacher may at their discretion use other prayers or invite the children to lead the class in prayer. Classes will also write their own prayer book for use in a variety of ways.

3.4 Reflection of the liturgical life of the Anglican Church in worship.

All acts of worship should be conducted according to the teaching and doctrine of the Anglican Church.

To reflect the liturgical life of the Anglican church use will be made from time to time of common prayers used in the Church (for example: the Lord's prayer, the words of the peace, the Gloria)

The colours of the liturgical year will be used as part of a worship focus in the main assembly hall.

There will be artefacts and displays in classrooms including a cross in each room that encourage pupils to reflect on the Christian heritage of the school at various points in the day, other than in formal worship.

It is expected that classroom displays should contain no material that is contrary to the teachings and doctrines of the Anglican church.

4. Seasonal Worship

Seasonal worship in church (either St Stephen and St Agnes or Holy Trinity) covers the following celebrations and events Education Sunday, Harvest, Christmas, Epiphany, Easter and the end of the School Year.

The act of worship may replace the daily school assembly but preparation and rehearsals will not normally substitute for daily assembly.

The dates and times of these seasonal acts of worship will be agreed with the local clergy. (With the exception of Christmas, they will usually take place during the school day) Members of the wider school community will be informed of the dates and times of these acts of worship and invited to attend.

It is expected that foundation governors would attend one act of seasonal worship each year as part of their responsibility for maintaining the school's foundation.

4.1 Epiphany Worship & Use of Incense

The school attends The Church of St Stephen and St Agnes on the most convenient day before or after the church's celebration of epiphany for an act of worship around the Christmas crib. This worship usually involves the use of incense. Where staff or children may be intolerant to incense then they will be moved or allowed to leave before it is burnt.

5 Monitoring of Collective Worship

The headteacher will lead the monitoring of worship within the school and will be assisted by members of the governor's Ethos committee.

Reports on the outcome of monitoring should be shared with the Ethos committee on a termly basis.

Governors (especially foundation governors) should participate in worship whenever possible and from this participation can contribute to the monitoring of worship. Any written report following attendance at worship should be discussed with the leader of the worship before it is published to the committee or the full governing body.