

William de Yaxley CE Academy



Collective Worship Policy

“Let all that you do be done in love”

1 Corinthians 16:14

Date Agreed: November 2023 **Date for Review:** November 2025

This policy, having been presented to, and agreed upon by the whole staff and Governors, will be distributed to:

- All teaching staff
- School governors

A copy of the policy will also be available in:

- The staffroom
- The school website
- The school office

This will ensure the policy is readily available to visiting teachers, support staff, volunteers and parents.

Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools provide daily collective Worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually provided within a daily collective Worship.

The governing body is responsible for arranging the daily collective Worship after consulting with the Headteacher. Daily Collective Worship must be of a Christian character. Collective Worship should be both Christian and reflect in some degree the distinctive Anglican heritage of the school's foundation

Aims and purpose

The aim of Collective Worship in our school is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- Worship God
- Reflect on values that are of a Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Respond to the worship offered.
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate major, and some minor, Christian festivals.
- To celebrate gifts, talents and achievements
- To encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues.

- To foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy.

To be meaningful for pupils, Collective Worship enables them to reflect on:

- What it means to be a human being
- Questions of meaning, purpose and value
- The best that human beings can be - inspirational, exemplars (people of faith or not) who have demonstrated through their actions, lives and qualities. Examples will come from religious and nonreligious sources.
- Personal beliefs and values

The Collective Worship that we deliver will recognise and value the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of our school population and will be conducted within our Equal Opportunities policy.

We will strive to ensure that collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an act of Collective Worship. We expect everyone to take an active part in the act of Collective Worship.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our Collective Worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our Collective Worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school and may make reference to the beliefs of others.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold acts of Collective Worship that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

How Collective Worship will enrich the experiences of pupils

It will

- Enable pupils to reflect on and question issues such as belonging to the school community, the wider community and to humanity as a whole;
- Reinforce a sense of community and cohesion through appreciating those things we have in common;
- Develop a reflective approach to life;
- Support pupils in the development of spiritual, cultural and moral perspectives;
- Develop a sense of the individual's place in the world beyond the physical, material and the here and now;
- Provide time to consider values and beliefs - both their own and those of others;
- Raise awareness of difficulties experienced living a life based on values, beliefs and principles which may not be shared by everyone in the wider community;
- Provide opportunity to celebrate achievement and to share times of celebration;
- support students in responding to crisis at a personal and collective level and provide them with a vocabulary to explore feelings and responses;
- Support those who have particular needs or who are engaged in times of crisis.

Collective Worship reinforces the school community, by giving pupils the opportunity to share things of worth with each other, within a reflective space.

Those pupils who have a faith will be able to use the reflection time to consider issues in the light of their religious beliefs and to pray or worship internally as they feel appropriate whilst those pupils who don't have a religious belief will have the opportunity to reflect and make a personal, internal response to the same stimulus. They will also be able to enter into dialogue with those of faith, enabling both believers and non-believers to appreciate each other's stances.

Content of Collective Worship

Collective Worship will include:

- Examples of lives of people of faith and other good human beings;
- Stories supporting themes from a range of sources, including sacred texts, faith communities and secular books where these support the Christian act of worship;
- Responses to key local, national and international events;
- Marking the celebration of a broad range of religious and cultural festivals that reflect the diversity of faiths contained within the community, ensuring that this part of the Collective Worship is separate from the act of worship;
- Providing an opportunity to think about their own beliefs whether religious or otherwise;
- Consideration of questions you wouldn't think about elsewhere – not necessarily with easy / definitive answers;
- Putting things into practice – e.g., supporting charities;
- Providing a moment for silent reflection / prayer;
- Celebration of successes of members of the school community;
- Performances or presentations from members of the school community;
- Input from visiting speakers / experts where this input has been discussed beforehand with the Headteacher to ensure that it meets the requirements of a church school act of Collective Worship and where the format of the act of worship has been agreed;

Organisation of collective worship

Collective Worship is held daily, lasts for a minimum of 15 minutes and always includes an act of worship. It is held in the school hall, in classrooms, and on occasions at in St Peter's church. All children attend each Collective Worship (except if withdrawn by their parents).

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way and tell children that Collective Worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns/appropriate songs.

We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects from the worship table that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

Pupils learn and say together from memory our School Prayer, The Lord's Prayer and lunchtime prayer. The Headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct Collective Worship. Local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them regularly. Pupils are also invited to lead Collective Worship, based on the schools value for the Half Term. .

We use a range of resources alongside the Ely Diocesan Board of Education plans and thematic units for collective worship which are based on the traditions of the Christian faith – this includes reflection of the festivals and events of the Christian calendar.

Sometimes the themes of our Collective Worship reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

Our Collective Worship reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Collective Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. William de Yaxley CE Academy is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in Collective Worship.

We welcome governors' attendance at our Collective Worship at any time.

We welcome parents' attendance at our Celebration and Special Mentions Collective Worship, and also annual year group Collective Worship including: Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year.

They take place in St Peter's church.

The Worship Council have an active role in helping to lead Collective Worship. The Year Six pupils are encouraged to help with setting up the hall, choosing the leading in and out music and working any appropriate technology.

The Worship Council is asked to reflect on collective worship and write a selection of prayers to be read each week by pupils and these prayers are recorded in the Collective Worship book. The school has a Reflection Corner, whereby Collective Worship is reinforced and provides opportunities for children to extend their prayer and thought processes.

Elements of Worship

- Each act of Collective Worship follows the 'gather, engage, respond, send' structure
- Songs, Music
- A lit candle (this could be an image)
- Prayer
- Reflection and contemplation
- Individual and group activity
- Bible readings
- Artefacts
- Discussion, speech and silence
- Procession and ritual action
- Use of the senses
- Other visual stimulus e.g. use of ICT

Collective Worship Council

The school has a group of KS2 pupils who have been elected by their peers to be part of a Collective Worship Council. The Council meets regularly with the R.E coordinator to give their input on Collective Worship themes, write and share prayers with the school, gather pupil feedback on Collective Worship, monitor Collective Worship and plan special projects such as – developing reflection spaces.

Right of withdrawal

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. The head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship. Staff may request withdrawal from Collective Worship by contacting the Headteacher.

Resources

Our resources include the Ely Diocesan Board of Education plans, books, internet Collective Worship, focus artefacts, posters, music and people.

The resources are stored and managed by the R.E Subject Leader using the available school budget.

Monitoring and review

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. The governor concerned liaises with the head teacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship and supports the school with all issues relating to SIAMS.