



Abbey CofE Infant School

Collective Worship Policy

Approval Date:

Date Adopted by GB:

Review Date: May 2028

Person Responsible: R.Horton

Policy Statement

At Abbey CofE Infant and Nursery School, worship is an affirmation and celebration of our Christian ethos where adults and children have the opportunity to learn, worship and grow in their understanding of God and of themselves. It is therefore the 'heartbeat' of everything that we do and an expression of our school's Christian vision and values.

We believe that we and our children are made in the image of God and that worship is a vital factor in this image becoming more real and meaningful. It should enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Through collective worship we begin to introduce a basic concept of the trinity, appropriate to the age of our children, through the lighting of one candle with three separate wicks.

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 Christian in character. 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 the pupils in that they should take 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. Foundation Governors have a particular responsibility for ensuring that Collective Worship is inclusive, inspirational and invitational.

Aims and Purpose

Collective Worship in our school aims to give the whole school the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- Experience and respond to Anglican traditions and practices

- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Be still and reflect
- Share each other's joys and challenges

Anglican Faith and Practice

In order to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England:

We use the Bible as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and expose children to the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other verses of scripture. We also introduce them to a variety of prayers – many of which express the central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.

We use aspects of Anglican liturgy to create a framework for worship. We use Christian symbols as a focus for reflection and provide opportunities to discover the value of stillness and silence. We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals.

As worship is a special part of our day, we provide a worship space which is attractive and well prepared with appropriate thought having been given to colour, space, seating, ambience and music.

We actively seek to develop church partnerships to enhance our provision for collective worship. This includes the local Anglican church of St Mary's Abbey. We view our school as part of the global church and aim to provide opportunities for pupils to appreciate the diversity of Christianity.

Rights and Responsibilities

As established by the 1944 Act and reinforced through this policy, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Should such a situation arise, parents should notify the Headteacher and provide written confirmation of their decision to withdraw their child from collective worship. A meeting will be arranged to discuss the request and to make arrangements for adhering to the requirements of the Act.

Planning

Planning for Collective Worship is led by the Headteacher and follows the cycle of the Anglican year. The planning reflects our vision and values and is enhanced using:

- Roots and Fruits scheme
- Jack in the Box Big Bible Story resource
- iSing POP (funded by Coventry Diocese)

The headteacher ensures that leaders and visiting speakers receive copies of the plans. Individuals and groups are responsible for using the plans as a basis for developing their own short-term plans for individual acts of worship. This approach is inclusive of pupils, who regularly participate in

collective worship and respond to its impact through simple reflections and responses appropriate to the children's age and stage of development.

Planning refers to the Church of England Guidance for Collective Worship in Schools (2021) and be inclusive, invitational and inspirational in nature. It also considers the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Framework September 2023:

Inspection Question 3 - [How is collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually?](#)

[Collective worship should be shaped by the theologically rooted Christian vision of the school. in doing so the teaching of the Bible and the life of Jesus should support the understanding and exploration of the Christian foundations of the school. It should show impact on how it shapes the daily lives of everyone who attends it in school. It also is inherently connected to the schools understanding of what spirituality looks like in its context and how this is developed in collective worship. Many schools will consider this more fully in their Spirituality Policy.](#)

Organisation

- An act of Collective Worship is held daily. This may involve the whole school, class or key stage groups. Where collective worship forms part of an assembly, we ensure that there is a clear distinction between the two elements of gathering.
- Collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspirational;
INCLUSIVE: Staff plan content to reflect diversity. The content is presented using a worldviews approach whereby stereotypes are avoided. In order to achieve this, staff aim to present a variety of Christian worldviews through worship. Staff take account of the age and stage of development of pupils as well as school context when planning worship (*more information in the inclusion section below*).
INVITATIONAL: Pupils and staff are invited to participate in worship through the use of invitational language. Staff use language such as 'many Christians believe...' avoiding generalisations and assumptions regarding the beliefs of those present within worship.
INSPIRATIONAL: Staff aim to make worship lively, engaging and enjoyable thus culminating in an uplifting and inspirational experience for all.
- Every collective worship includes a Bible text/story shared with children in a variety of lively ways.

Artwork	Music	Visuals	Multimedia	Drama
Story	Reflection	Stillness	Silence	Prayer

- Staff use all of the above in various combinations to enhance the message and help all pupils to engage in Collective Worship.
- As when teachers prepare lessons, worship leaders take account of different spiritual temperaments and aim to present materials using an array of approaches.

Spiritual Pathways Linked to the Bible	The Way the Bible is Used in Collective Worship
Spiritual Naturalists	Coupled with images of the natural world, poetic forms of Bible stories
Spiritual Sensates	Spiritual Imagining, use of props, smells, actions
Spiritual Traditionalists	Illustrations, charts and symbols linked to the Bible
Spiritual Ascetics	Listening to the Bible read aloud while pupils are still
Spiritual Activists	Springboard to courageous advocacy (outward looking)
Spiritual Caregivers	Springboard to kindness and compassionate action (inward looking)
Spiritual Enthusiasts	Acting out Bible stories to uncover meaning
Spiritual Intellectuals	Discussing meaning & posing questions
Spiritual Contemplatives	Lectio Divina and contemplation of scripture and its meaning

Collective Worship EYFS

Collective worship in the EYFS is organised in a developmentally appropriate way. Short acts of worship are introduced to nursery aged children through invitational prayer, songs and stories from the Bible. Reception children begin to participate in whole school worship three times a week and engage in a short act of invitational worship in their classroom for the remaining two days. Children in Reception begin to visit church for worship during the summer term.

The headteacher and other members of staff together with groups of children take turns to conduct Collective Worship.

Monday: Whole School Worship (led by Headteacher)

Tuesday: Choral Worship (led by teachers on a rota basis) – Worship led by Fr Roger (monthly/ children visit church for worship on a rota basis (monthly)

Wednesday: Classroom Worship – responding to worship or isingpop

Thursday: Class led worship or Values in Action worship

Friday: Wows Worship (alternate between HT/DHT)

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way expecting children to behave appropriately. We create a suitable atmosphere by using music, pictures or other artefacts to act as a focal point.

Monday: *Whole school worship* is led by the Headteacher and is used to explore the school's theologically rooted Christian vision. As a school (all staff and pupils), we gather together to learn from the Bible and to reflect on what it means to live out the school's Christian values. Monday worship is a peaceful and reflective time. It is also a time in which the whole school joins together in community to begin the week with positivity and purpose.

Tuesday: *Choral worship.* In Choral worship we sing a range of pre-planned songs. The songs are identified on the half termly worship plans. Songs are selected to be inclusive, to reflect our

diverse community and to explore the rich history of the Christian faith. Children are invited to join in with singing when singing songs containing confessional language. Staff respect children's decision on whether they wish to sing or not.

Fr Roger visits school - on a monthly basis to lead worship.

Worship in Church – children visit church in year groups. Visits take place on a monthly basis and year groups take turns on a rota basis. Reception children begin to attend church worship in the summer term.

Wednesday: Classroom worship – Children remain with their class and engage in worship within classrooms. This is led by class teachers and is used as a time to reflect and respond to Monday's whole school worship content. Class teachers can use the time to talk about classroom prayer spaces and the specific activities available for the half term. KS1 children use using pop classroom worship to explore a range of age appropriate Christian themes.

Thursday: Values in action worship/ class led worship

Values in action worship - Children who have been spotted modelling the school's Christian Values and shine brightly through the school's theologically rooted Christian vision are celebrated and rewarded during values in action worship. One child from each class is picked out for demonstrating our values in action to promote and deepen children's understanding of what it means to live out the school's Christian vision and values. Children also join in prayer and song during values in action worship.

Class led worship- Classes take turn to plan and lead worship linked to the school vision and value of the half term.

Friday: Wows worship is an opportunity to celebrate when children have demonstrated positive learning behaviours which has helped them to achieve success in their learning. This culminates in an act of Collective Worship and plays an important role in promoting the ethos of the school.

We encourage and develop our pupils as spiritual leaders in collective worship by:

- Pupils lead prayer and reflections they have written.
- Pupils engage in prayer and their voice is valued equally in this time.
- Pupils offer spiritual reflections to discuss back in their classrooms at an age-appropriate level after worship has finished.

Implementation

As a school we offer a rich and varied diet of daily collective worship on a weekly basis, in addition we also plan services of worship which are held in church around key festival dates in the Christian calendar, such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

Our weekly diet of daily collective worship has developed to meet the spiritual needs of all who attend, it includes the following:

- Whole school collective worship led by a senior teacher to explore core Christian values linked to the expression of our theologically rooted Christian vision.

- Class based collective worship that provides age appropriate, personalised exploration of key Christian themes and messages.
- Visitor led worship, by people from the church to explore themed Christian messages or key Christian events and festivals.
- Pupil led worship to allow our pupils to grow and express their ideas, beliefs and become better spiritual leaders.
- In our 'Values in action worship' and 'wow worship' we seek to celebrate achievements of pupils who flourish in the widest sense in our school community and outside of it. The awards are linked to our vision and core Christian values to exemplify how they shape and support our daily lives.
- Choral worship where we learn, sing and praise through invitational songs and music linked to our Christian vision and values.

Resources

The budget for Collective Worship is distinct from the budget for Religious Education. There is a wide selection of assembly books and artefacts which we regularly update and improve. We use videos, music streaming services to provide suitable music as children enter and leave the hall as well as to accompany singing. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training from the Diocese of Coventry.

Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

We recognise that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others. They will have opportunity to explore and reflect on the Ows, Wows and Nows of life.

Monitoring and Evaluation

We monitor and evaluate the impact of our Collective Worship by maintaining records of the activity and surveying adults and children as to their views on its impact and expression of the school's Christian vision. In conjunction with Governors, pupils will also evaluate the impact of Collective Worship on themselves and the wider school community.

Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs when appropriate. As when teachers prepare lessons, worship leaders take account of different spiritual temperaments and aim to present materials using an array of approaches.

In some cases, pupils with additional or special needs may find whole school collective worship overwhelming to their sensory experience and as a result will undertake the content of worship in another place in school with a trusted adult. This will be appropriate for their needs and include the bible verse / story and prayer / reflection.

Some pupils may attend worship for part of the session as they find some aspects harder to engage – e.g. the loudness of singing or an external partners delivering worship whom they are not familiar with. In these cases, pupils may have a trusted adult with them to support the in accessing aspects of worship and then withdraw the pupil at an appropriate time.

Some pupils will have a trusted adult supporting them in worship, so they feel confident to access and understand the content. These adults usually sit close by or on the floor with the pupil.

A range of adaptations may be seen to enable pupils to access worship – such as ear defenders, fidget resources and for some pupil's physical resources such as wobble seats or cushions.

For some pupils with different religious beliefs or those with no belief, they are respectfully included and invited to participate in the aspects of worship they are comfortable with. This may have been agreed with parents / carers prior to starting school. For pupils who do this, they are asked to be respectful of others around them and to use the time they are not engaging e.g. prayer to sit and contemplate their own thoughts or beliefs.

SUGGESTED INVITATIONAL LANGUAGE AGREED BY STAFF (Any other form of invitational language may be used, the suggestions were developed collaboratively with the Abbey teaching team as a method of support)

- I invite you to join in with this prayer/ song
- You are welcome to join in with this song...
- You may choose to use this time for quiet reflection
- If you would like to make this prayer your own, you can say amen at the end

Implementation of Policy

The Collective Worship Coordinator is responsible for this policy which will be reviewed by the Governing Body every three years (or sooner if national policy changes). Its' implementation is the responsibility of all those planning and leading Collective Worship.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years.

Links to Other Policies:

- Schools theologically rooted Christian Vision
- Spirituality Policy
- Religious Education Policy
- PSHE Policy / RSHE Policy