Froxfield Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Introduction and summary of our policy

This Policy sets out the values and aims of collective worship at the school. It conforms with the recommended form of policy for collective worship in schools published by the Portsmouth and Winchester Dioceses. It complies with the requirements in law relating to collective worship. It also complies with the terms of the school's foundation trust deed and seeks to fulfil the school's vision.

Collective worship is a central feature of the school's life for the whole school community. Through collective worship it is our aim to give the children an understanding of a life of faith, prayer, spirituality and worship in the context of Christian beliefs as understood and practised in the Church of England. Collective worship celebrates and promotes the school's chosen Christian values of love, respect and courage. Collective worship includes celebration of the principal Christian festivals.

In order to offer a depth of experience in collective worship, we work with the clergy, lay readers and church leaders of our parish (Froxfield with Privett, the church of St Peter's High Cross) and they are invited to take services of collective worship.

Collective worship is carried out daily, and in a range of ways, including class worship, whole school worship, and worship in the parish church.

The principles of Collective Worship in our school

In providing collective worship in the school we adhere to the following principles:

Our worship:

- At its simplest creates a time and space where we can come closer to God and God can come closer to us
- Is distinctively Christian
- Uses and promotes the school's chosen core Christian values of love, respect and courage
- Has ***Integrity*** as an act of Church of England worship whilst being ***Invitational, Inclusive*** and ***Inspirational***
- Is based on Biblical text or themes
- Enables participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Is central in importance to the life of the school community, and recognises that the school is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world
- Reflects on human existence
- Celebrates all that is good and lovely, expressing thankfulness for the joy of being alive as part of God's creation
- Encourages each child to explore and develop a spiritual dimension to his or her life
- Explains and celebrates the seasons and festivals of the Christian year
- Develops understanding of Church of England traditions and the practice of our parish church.

For the benefit of the school community we:

- Develop personal spirituality within the school community through a range of experiences including individual and collective prayer
- Engage children and adults with collective worship, making it relevant and transformational to the lives of members of the whole school community
- Celebrate the God-given gifts and talents of individuals and the whole school community
- Make a significant contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of members of the school community
- Consider the beliefs and values of others, especially those within the school community
- Raise aspirations of individuals and the school community as a whole
- Involve children and adults in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship.

In order to comply with the requirements of the law and with best practice, our collective worship Policy:

- Is carried out so as to comply with the requirements in law relating to collective worship (currently to be found in the Education Act 1998 and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) including in particular by providing a daily act of worship
- Reflects and conforms with the terms of the school's foundation trust deed
- Reflects the ethos of the school and its vision
- Is clearly outlined in the school prospectus, website and all relevant documentation
- Is monitored and evaluated by foundation governors for the impact it has on the school community.

Aims of Collective Worship in our school

We exercise the principles of collective worship in the school in ways which are intended to achieve the following aims:

- To promote the joy of worship as engaging, inspiring and transformative.
- To develop spirituality, morality, social and cultural values.
- Sometimes to provide a peaceful environment enabling stillness, reflection and prayer.
- Sometimes to be noisy and joyous with singing, music, dance, drama, gymnastics etc.
- To give an opportunity to acquire a secure knowledge of the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible.
- To understand, celebrate and develop children's knowledge of Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and religious festivals in the Church of England's church year.
- To appreciate that people, cultures and beliefs differ and to demonstrate respect, tolerance and generosity towards them.
- To develop pupils' sense of self-worth and to provide opportunities to celebrate achievements.
- To develop a caring attitude to others and a sense of community and loyalty.
- To support and to reflect the wider curriculum and activities taking place in the school.
- To provide opportunities for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate collective worship.
- To invite clergy of the parish, other lay members of the parish and other Christian leaders in the community as are acceptable to the parish church to lead worship weekly.

How we achieve our aims

We aim to promote collective acts of worship, which are rich, meaningful experiences that are appropriate and significant to the child's needs, age, development and interest, and also relevant to the whole school community, by:

- Creating a sense of occasion and reverence following the four central attributes of worship (see below).
- Arranging worship at different places when possible, different times with different people and groupings, involving all members of the school community at some time, and always in an environment and manner which is conducive to worship.
- Planning and linking themes which focus on a particular idea/concept, i.e. the liturgical year; RE curriculum, festivals and celebrations, within Christian and other faith traditions, our Christian values and celebrating achievements, good work and behaviour; for these purposes we use the Jumping Fish Toolkit and Roots and Fruits course (creative collective worship for primary schools).
- Using a wide range of resources, devotional aids, artefacts (from religious and secular sources), music, art, drama and external speakers to engage children's interest.
- Encouraging children to participate and experience different styles of worship, e.g. prayer, praise, silence, rituals, and become familiar with the language of worship, Biblical readings and liturgy.
- Introducing children to the heritage of hymns and songs traditional to the Church of England as well as contemporary Christian worship songs.
- Providing opportunities for children to reflect and contemplate on their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs and background.
- Using the centrality of prayer – personal silent prayer, personal shared prayers, collective prayers, writing prayers.
- Providing opportunities that develop pupil's awareness of what is beautiful, good, wonderful, awesome and puzzling in life experience.
- Providing collective worship which is a learning experience of real quality, properly planned, researched and executed and matched to the child's age and experience.
- Involving all school staff, so that it is truly "whole school" collective worship.
- Involving parents, governors, and members of the wider community in collective worship and offering children the opportunity to participate in activities within the parish.
- Presenting and creating displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas, thoughts and questions.
- Providing opportunities for children to share their ideas and experiences and having respect for children's expressions of beliefs other than the Christian faith.
- Using language which is inclusive and avoiding language or attitudes which may be construed as presenting gender, racial, religious or other stereotypes.

Central attributes of an act of worship

During collective worship, whether in the classroom, parish church or elsewhere, we apply the following 'central attributes' of worship:

Gathering	Making special and significant this part of the day through appropriate symbol and ceremony
Engaging	Using the best available techniques to stimulate interest in the content
Responding	Ensuring there is time and opportunity for individual, group reflection and thought, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways
Sending	Summarising the worship in a meaningful short message used to create an opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas covered and to conclude the worship.

The centrality of prayer

All children are taught the Lord's Prayer and the School Prayer.

During the collective worship there is a time for response and reflection, to ponder on a question, statement or thought. This may also be reflected in a prayer, offered spontaneously by a pupil or adult, read out or recited. This prayer may be displayed and used in class. Times of prayer are conducted so that the children come to understand:

- the nature and purpose of prayer.
- the part prayer may play in their lives and the life of the school community.
- the contribution prayer makes to the spiritual development of individuals and the whole school community.

There are also appropriate opportunities for prayer and other worship activities, including reflection, outside of collective worship.

Each class has a 'reflective area' to engage and promote the spiritual life of individual children and staff members.

Organising Collective Worship in the school

The pattern of collective worship in the school is organised on the following basis, although this arrangement is sufficiently flexible to allow changes for special occasions or to meet timetabling requirements:

Monday:	class worship
Tuesday:	whole school worship led by the clergy
Wednesday:	whole school worship including learning hymns and songs
Thursday:	whole school
Friday:	whole school including celebrations

There is a termly rota for collective worship which indicates the leaders, themes, content and songs, using the modules of The Jumping Fish syllabus to provide the half-termly themes and content.

Collective worship may be prepared and led by:

- The Headteacher
- Teaching staff
- The parish clergy or other clergy recommended by the parish clergy

- Other members of St Peter's congregation
- A class or group of children
- Authorised visitors to the school, who should be personally known to the school or recommended from another school or met beforehand.

Collective worship normally happens immediately after the lunch break or at the end of the school day.

The person leading the collective worship chooses a piece of music to play as the children enter and leave the collective worship. The pieces of music played offer opportunities to reflect and create an appropriate atmosphere of reverence. There may be a display of a question, picture or some information relating to the music or the theme of the worship on the IWB as the children enter. The lighting of a candle marks the start of the act of worship, likewise the extinguishing of the candle clearly shows that the worship is over.

The leader may begin with one of a number of familiar introductory statements or greetings to which the children will reply with the appropriate response. Correspondingly, the worship may be concluded by a closing statement of benediction or dismissal from the leader with the children responding.

Singing is encouraged in the worship to give the children experience and knowledge of some parts of the heritage of hymns and songs traditional to the Church of England, as well as contemporary songs of Christian worship.

Communication

Parents are informed specifically about new initiatives to promote the school's Christian values, and through the school's newsletter parents are informed about the value chosen as the basis of collective worship for the half-term.

Parents are also informed through the newsletter about special services held by the school in the church, and are always invited to attend such services.

The current Christian value chosen for the half-term is displayed in a central location in the school and also in each classroom.

Parental involvement

Parents are actively encouraged to participate in collective acts of worship, church services and celebration worships.

Parents' right to withdraw their child from collective worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship without giving a reason for doing so. They should do so in writing to the Headteacher

The school complies with the exercise by the parents of their right to withdraw their child from collective worship and ensures a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Responsibilities

The normal expectation within the school is for all staff to view daily collective worship as an important part of their own well-being and spiritual development as human beings. The school endeavours to timetable staff so all have an opportunity to attend regularly.

At interview all applicants are informed that the school is a Church of England school and holds daily acts of collective worship that promote the Christian ethos and values of the school.

The normal expectation is that teaching staff, including student teachers, will participate in and lead collective worship.

The school welcomes offers from any member of staff who feels confident to lead worship.

The Headteacher is responsible for co-ordinating the programme of induction and training for staff in relation to leading collective worship.

The person responsible for collective worship is the Headteacher.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship is undertaken by staff and governors on a regular basis.

In the course of the year the foundation governors attend a range of collective worship acts and in this way support the school's self-evaluation, which is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body.

Pupils are also involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in weekly class worship, and pupil interviews.

All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, to reflect after every act of worship, and to develop and improve their practice.

Review

This Policy will be reviewed every two years, or earlier if changes are made to the SIAMS Evaluation Schedule.

September 2026