

Chadlington CE Primary School



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY 2024

Date: October 2024

Next review date: October 2025

Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring

Introduction

Collective Worship is central to the life of Chadlington C of E Primary School. It strengthens and supports the Christian distinctiveness of our school and the spiritual development of our community. It provides a valuable opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together, enabling everyone to flourish by reaffirming our vision - *Let your light shine: imagine, believe, achieve, thrive*, which is theologically rooted in Matthew 5: 14-16. Our core Christian values underpin our school ethos, and these are explored in greater depth through collective worship. Our values are creativity, compassion, faith, hope, wisdom, perseverance, love and *ubuntu*.

Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, recognising and following the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of collective worship is central to our community and is supported by all staff and governors. All worship aims to be inclusive, invitational and inspiring. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the school family.

Inclusive, Invitational, and Inspiring

Inclusive: Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. In our school, pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is fully inclusive. We aim to make collective

worship accessible to everyone, including pupils and staff in our school that have different faith backgrounds or no faith background. We appreciate that members of our community will be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Through collective worship, pupils should be given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There should be space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching. Collective worship should involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community. Although part of a national legislative framework, collective worship in our school grows out of the local context and out of pupils' experience, including their cultural backgrounds.

Invitational: Parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There should be no compulsion to do anything. Rather, worship should provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults should always only be invited to pray if they wish to do so. Prayer should always be accompanied by the option to reflect.

Inspiring: Worship should be formational and transformational: it should enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It should motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on our actions and behaviour as individuals, within our local community and as part of the global community. As a result of inspirational collective worship, pupils should be inspired to become courageous advocates of important causes - to *let their light shine*. Collective worship should encourage all members of our school family to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

Intent

Collective Worship at Chadlington C of E Primary School is important to us as a school community. It aims to enable pupils and adults to flourish spiritually. We come together to listen to stories, hear God's word, sing songs and pray or reflect together. It is the context in which the language of spirituality, which we use as a school, is regularly and explicitly shared. Collective Worship provides the opportunity for pupils to become aware of the importance of reflection and how our positive and negative experiences can be formative. It also provides a real sense of being present in the world. Through daily collective worship, pupils are offered space and time to reflect on their own lives and beliefs. Pupils are encouraged to consider how they let their light shine and how they use their God-given talents for the good of others, recognising the importance of *ubuntu*.

It is our intent to:

- Explore the school's vision, values and key habits, in line with our Vision and Values Trees.
- Provide opportunities to reflect on values and linked Bible stories.

- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate Christian worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship and festivals.
- Be inspirational and inclusive, engaging all learners.
- Help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- Provide an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance.

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 assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. We will always conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to individual faith and inclusive of all.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship. Collective Worship is regarded as an essential part of the development of the whole child and as such is recognised by staff and governors as an important part of daily learning. We expect all children to attend but 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. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education reform Act. The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship.

Planning and organisation

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school, either as a whole school, in key stages or in classes. The structure of collective worship varies but usually includes a song, questions, times of silence and prayer.

Collective Worship supports our school vision and values and is based on:

- The school's Christian values and linked Bible stories
- Religious events and special days
- Special events in the life of the school and wider community.

Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<i>Let your light shine - Celebration</i>	Values	Sing and Praise	Bible story and reflection	Picture News
Key stage	Class	Whole school	Class	Whole school
<i>LM & LW</i>	<i>Teachers</i>	<i>AS</i>	<i>Teachers</i>	<i>Headteacher</i>

Each person leading worship is expected to plan their act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. Collective worship is led by different staff within the school. It may also be led by clergy. Children are encouraged to be involved in leading collective worship. Reflective spaces in the hall and classrooms provide a focus for collective worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation

As part of our monitoring schedule, the school leaders and Foundation Governors evaluate collective worship and its impact, to inform further development. Observations and discussions with focus groups let us know what we have done well and what we could improve.