



Cornerstone CofE VA Primary School

*Building our Community with Love, Forgiveness
and Hope*



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Reviewed By	Teaching & Learning	Authorised By	FGB
Last Review	Summer 2016	Next Review	Summer 2017
Review Cycle	Annually	Ratified by FGB	

Principles

This policy is an agreed statement of the values and aims of Collective Worship at Cornerstone Primary Church of England School.

“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God.” William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury 1942-44

This policy is rooted in our Christian Values of **Love, Forgiveness** and **Hope**.

In the Bible John says that *“God is Love”*. At Cornerstone this type of Love is selfless Love in action, and means putting others before yourself and not expecting anything in return.

Paul talks about Forgiveness when he says *“Be compassionate and kind to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.”* At Cornerstone we view Forgiveness as showing understanding towards others, genuinely forgiving and moving forward together after mistakes and helping others grow and improve.

In the Bible Peter says *“God has given us new birth into a living hope through Jesus.”* At Cornerstone we have Hope for every child and adult: that they can grow as people, learn at all times and that there are no limits to what they can achieve with God’s support.

These Values are made evident for the children in the everyday life of school through our ‘Cornerstone Rules’.

Love

- We are kind, friendly and helpful
- We listen carefully
- We look after our classrooms and school

Forgiveness

- We say sorry and try hard to improve
- We share and take turns
- We include everyone

Hope

- We are cheerful and positive
- We work hard to learn and grow
- We learn from mistakes and problems

Worship in our school should:

As worship:

- Should at its simplest create a time and space where we can come closer to God and God can come closer to us
- Be distinctively Christian
- Use and promote the clearly identified core Christian values of the school
- Have **Integrity** as acts of Anglican worship whilst being **Invitational, Inclusive** and **inspirational**
- Be based on Biblical text or themes
- Enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Be central in importance to the life of our school community, which is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world
- Reflect on human existence
- Use the seasons and festivals of the Christian year
- Develop understanding of Anglican traditions and the practice of the local Whiteley church

For people:

- Develop personal spirituality within the school community through a range of experiences including individual and collective prayer
- Engage pupils 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

To comply:

- Reflect the trust deed
- Be clearly outlined in the school prospectus and documentation
- Involve learners and adults in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship
- Be monitored and evaluated for the impact it has on the school community by foundation governors

Aims

- To promote the joy of worship as engaging, inspiring and transformative.
- To develop spirituality, morality, social and cultural values.
- To provide opportunities for children to be partners in Collective Worship through planning, leading, contributing to, monitoring and evaluating collective worship.
- Sometimes to provide a peaceful environment enabling stillness, reflection time 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 Anglican Church's 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 invite the Vicar, 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 pupil's needs, age, development and interest by:

- Creating a sense of occasion and reverence following the 4 key elements of worship.
- Arranging worship at different places when possible, different times with different people and groupings, involving all members of the school community at some time.

- 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 the SEAL or RRR or other resource programme – celebrating achievements, good work and behaviour.
- 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.
- Encourage 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.
- Providing opportunities for pupils to reflect, contemplate on their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- 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.
- Involving pupils and members of the wider community to participate in collective worship and activities within the parish.
- Presenting and creating displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas, thoughts and questions.

Key elements of an act of worship

The School will endeavour to fulfil the legal requirements of 1988 Education Reform Act in conjunction with School’s trust deed, by holding ‘an act of collective worship every day’.

During collective worship, whether in the hall, classroom or outside, we will apply the following ‘four key elements’ of worship:

Gathering	Making special and significant this part of the day through appropriate symbol and ceremony
Engaging	Using a variety of 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

See APPENDIX 2 for a fuller explanation of the four key elements of worship.

School specific organisation

Monday 2.45	Whole school worship led by HT on the theme
Tuesday time varies	Class worship led by staff or whole school worship led by a visiting speaker
Wednesday 2.45	Whole school singing worship led by staff or whole school worship led by a visiting speaker
Thursday 2.45	Whole school led by Vicar
Friday 9.15	Whole school celebration worship led by HT or staff

The School may vary the organisation Whole School/Class/Key Stage each year or term.

Collective worship is planned systematically, so that there is continuity, variety and clear focus on Christian beliefs and festivals. Worship is led by a variety of people that include School staff, pupils, Governors, representatives from the parish church, members of different faith communities and members of the local community.

The centrality of prayer

During the collective worship there will be 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 can be displayed and used in class and school reflective areas so that:

- Children understand the nature and purpose of prayer.
- Children understand the part prayer may play in their lives and the life of the school community.

- Prayer contributes to the spiritual development of individuals and the whole school community.

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

Each class has a 'reflective area' to engage and promote individual pupils and adults, as well as designated special spaces around the school.

Management and organisation of resources

The Headteacher plans worship on a termly basis, with input from pupils, teachers, Vicar and members of the parish church and reflections / feedback from pupils, staff, governors and parents.

Resources and artefacts are available from the RE centre/ church/ Vicar/ schools bank

All classes have access to prayer books and Bibles, in time as the school grows there will be a set of Bibles in the library for a class to use.

A board is displayed in the hall, highlighting the focus and theme of collective acts of worship, music and prayer.

The School's reception area displays reflect the colours of the Anglican Church's year, current ideas and themes, as well as the school's distinctive ethos and Christian values.

Communication

The school newsletter explains the themes for that half-term so parents are always informed about the worship taking place in school.

Some parents will value this personally and may discuss and reflect on the worship at home with their child.

Whenever one of the school's Christian values is explored in depth, parents also receive a supplementary newsletter about this value. This can include an interactive home challenge.

Parental involvement

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

Legal status of collective worship

All maintained schools in England must provide a daily act of collective worship.

In a Church of England School, worship must be in line with the trust deed of the school and will reflect the traditions of the Church of England, i.e. the Anglican tradition.

Right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship and sixth-formers can decide for themselves whether or not to attend, without giving a reason for doing so. Schools must comply with this wish and must ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Collective worship guidance is contained in Circular 1/94.

Responsibilities

The normal expectation within our church 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 will endeavour to timetable staff so all have an opportunity to attend regularly.

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

The normal expectation will be 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.

The person responsible for collective worship is the Headteacher

Monitoring and evaluation

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

All who deliver worship will be observed on a termly basis. This process supports the school's self-evaluation, is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body.

Pupils will be involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in weekly class worship, questionnaires and pupil conferences with the new HT.

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

Review

This policy should be reviewed annually, or earlier if changes are made to the SIAMS Evaluation Schedule.

Appendices

APPENDIX 1 – The inspection of collective worship by SIAMS (church school inspection)

APPENDIX 2 – The four key elements of collective worship explained

APPENDIX 3 – Collective worship observation form

APPENDIX 4 – A practical guide to evaluating collective worship. To be developed over 2014/15 with the new HT and as the school grows.

APPENDIX 5- Liturgical colours