

Corfield C of E Infant School Collective Worship Policy

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Person Responsible: Louise Bignall

At Corfield we believe the children should have the opportunity to ACHIEVE and progress in their learning and their life. They should be given the confidence to BELIEVE in and respect themselves, God and others and use their skills to CARE and communicate to ensure a better tomorrow.

Policy Statement

As a Church school, worship is an affirmation and celebration of our Christian ethos where children have the opportunity to learn, worship and grow in their understanding of God and of themselves. Worship in our school is not simply a statutory duty. It is the heartbeat of our school life – a time to gather together, reaffirm our vision and associated values **ACHIEVE, BELIEVE and CARE** and celebrate the central role that each pupil and adult have to play in our community.

Our acts of collective worship reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship as defined by the Education Reform Act 1988 are as follows: The aspiration to provide collective worship that is Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring.

Collective worship in a Church of England school will do the following:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- 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 that Christians 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, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. 5 Under Section 55 of the Education and Inspections Act, it remains the case that only pupils in sixth form education or over the age of compulsory school age (Section 55. 9) may withdraw themselves from collective worship

Aims of Collective Worship in a Church School The aims of Collective Worship are:

- *to help children discover their place in the world*
- *to highlight and nurture the spiritual dimension through experiencing worship*
- *to provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship forms, including symbols and imagery*
- *to provide an opportunity to celebrate major, and some minor, Christian festivals*
- *to heighten awareness of the ultimate questions of life and to provide the opportunity to reflect upon these*
- *to support the search for meaning*

- *to enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God, and to the community, and to respect the integrity of each individual as a child of God*
- *to enable pupils to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer*
- *to celebrate gifts, talents and achievements*
- *to establish, explore, and reinforce the common Christian values of the school community such as love, peace, kindness, compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation*
- *to foster a feeling of community and belonging in the school through a sharing of experiences and feelings*
- *to develop personal relationships and to encourage social development Page 5 of 17*
- *to provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others*
- *to provide an opportunity for children to become acquainted with the faith of the people from the local and wider community, particularly the local church*
- *to encourage stewardship, 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 give memorable and enjoyable experiences*
- *to provide an opportunity to bring before God in prayer, personal needs and those of others*
- *to share with participants some of the central teachings of the Christian faith at an appropriate level, and give them the encouragement to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God*
- *to encounter, by invitation the person of Jesus Christ through prayer and scripture*
- *To experience worship as 'sending out' where reflections can be taken and applied through the day/s ahead*

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 or year groups.
- 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 Local Governing Body in consultation with the Headteacher.

Principles of collective worship

Each adult and pupil will experience worship that is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the

principles of Christian hospitality (see Church of England's Collective Worship Guidance).¹ Collective worship therefore will be:

- **Inclusive** – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching.
- **Invitational** – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship will 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 will only be invited to pray and sing if they wish to do so.
- **Inspiring** – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions.

Implementation

In addition to the above, we seek to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England. Therefore:

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

We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals.

In Corfield C of E Infant School, we aim to provide a worship space which is attractive and well prepared with appropriate thought having been given to colour, space, seating, ambience and music.

We foster links with St. Lawrence Church, involving the Reverend Lisa Schmilt in leading collective worship and providing coherence between worship in church and school and visit at St. Lawrence at key points in the Christian calendar.

We recognise that different members of our school community spiritually reflect in different ways. Music, story, silence, prayer, drama and other approaches are incorporated within a varied collective worship offer.

Connections with other Christian denominations and faiths

The Anglican Communion sees itself as part of a global church and promotes ecumenism. At Corfield C of E Infant School, we work to promote links with other local churches and Christian organizations and welcome their clergy and leaders as contributors to acts of collective worship.

We recognise that while some of our pupils and families belong to Anglican churches, many worship regularly at churches of other Christian denominations, while others come from different faith backgrounds or none. We endeavor to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised, where everyone finds something positive for themselves and there is no pressure to participate inappropriately or to believe.

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. However, having chosen to send their children to Corfield C of E Infant School, it is hoped that no one will exercise this right. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with the requirements of the Act.

Planning

Planning for Collective Worship is led by the Headteacher. Plans follow the cycle of the Anglican year.

At Corfield C of E Infant school, we follow the PSHE programme on Jigsaw. Which supports the development of Personal, Social, Health Education and relationships, Sex and education.

The Headteacher ensures that leaders and visiting speakers receive copies of the long-term 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.

Organisation

An act of Collective Worship is held daily. This may involve the whole school or smaller 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.

The Headteacher and other members of staff together with groups of children take turns to conduct Collective Worship. The local vicar, Reverend Lisa takes a termly Collective Worship in School as well as key celebratory worship at the church of St.Lawrence. She also visits school throughout the year for key events.

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. Each class brings a lit candle to Collective worship. When worship begins the children bring the lit candles to the front and they return the candles to their classrooms/prayer focus when the collective worship has concluded. Music is played associated with the terms theme of Collective worship. Collective worship is held at the end of the day 2.45-3.10. To reflect on their whole day.

Monday RE focus	Tuesday Singing	Wednesday In class Mindfulness	Thursday PSHE focus	Friday ABC Celebration
Led by Miss Raju	Led by Mrs Wilson	Led by Class teachers	Led by Mrs Hill or Mrs Gilbert	Led by Miss Mc Alavey

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 have a collection of CDs which are used to provide suitable music as children enter and leave the hall as well as to accompany singing. Those leading worship also access professional development opportunities.

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.

Monitoring and Evaluation

We aim to develop the monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship by continuing to keep records of Collective Worship and children as to their views on its effectiveness. We intend to make the criteria for successful worship available to all those who plan and lead it before asking them to submit short term plans. The coordinator and others will routinely observe and monitor acts of Collective Worship in line with these criteria.

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.

Implementation of Policy

The Headteacher as Collective Worship Coordinator is responsible for this policy which will be reviewed every two years. Its implementation is the responsibility of all those planning and leading Collective Worship.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Links to Other Policies:

- PSHE Jigsaw Policy.