

Collective Worship Policy - Adisham

Reviewed January 2023



The Stour Academy Trust

Adisham Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Every member of the Adisham CE Primary community is nurtured and enabled to flourish emotionally, spiritually and academically through our enriching curriculum. We are committed to ensuring our children are treated with the compassion and respect they deserve. As children of God, each child is as individual as a mustard seed and they are encouraged grow to their full potential and to live life in all its fullness.

Mission Statement

At Adisham Church of England Primary School this will be achieved in an environment influenced by Christian values. Our Christian Values aim to encourage a sense of friendship, compassion, respect and truth in all children and provide the foundations for all that we do and achieve throughout the school.

At Adisham CE Primary, the daily act of Collective Worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life and all members of the School Community are encouraged to attend.

Introduction

Our Collective Worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of Adisham Church of England Primary School, reaffirms our values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship will reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognize 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.

Legal requirement

Collective Worship is a legal requirement. The school must provide a Christian act of Collective Worship for all pupils every day. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors, with the CEO and Head teacher, to ensure that this happens.

What is Collective Worship?

Legislation requires schools, including Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools, to conduct daily acts of Collective Worship. However, the legislation does not define what is meant by the term 'Collective Worship'.

"... Worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to 'collective worship' rather than 'corporate worship'. (DfE Circular 1/94 para 57)

Corporate worship assumes a shared set of beliefs and values, i.e. a worshipping congregation meeting on a Sunday, where the worship is confessional and evangelistic (to spread the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness).

Collective worship, in recognising the collectivity of all participants, can make no such assumption that all have the same beliefs and values.



Collective Worship should be:

“Appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes.”
(DfE Circular 1/94 p.22)

It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors, with the CEO and Head teacher, to ensure that this happens.

Collective Worship at Sturry Church of England Primary School, will support the school's vision, by providing opportunities for students and staff to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

In line with the requirements of the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that collective worship

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- b) Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- c) Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- d) Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

Aims

Collective Worship at Adisham Church of England Primary School, will support the school's vision, by providing opportunities for students and staff:

- to explore a relationship with God through Jesus Christ and The Holy Trinity
- to reflect on values that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognizing the validity and importance of other Christian denominations
- to consider spiritual and moral issues
- to reflect on personal beliefs
- to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'no formal faith'
- to develop a sense of awe and wonder
- to participate in worship
- to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared Christian values (forgiveness; friendship; truth; compassion; respect)



- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it and a concern for the needs of others

Underlying principles in the Anglican Christian Tradition

Acts of Collective Worship will contain simple liturgy, Christian message, worship song and prayer:-

- Using the Bible, as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints Days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer
- Saying Grace at mealtimes
- Using simple liturgy e.g. *Peace be with you/And also with you; Go in peace to love and serve the Lord/In the name of Christ, Amen*
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and worship songs
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread & wine and candles
- Using prayer, silence and reflection

Implementation

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors in consultation with the collective worship leader. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class. Our school plans systematically and cohesively using (Canterbury Diocesan Collective Worship Planning and Picture News) which is adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the long- and short-term planning of worship and this enables continuity. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies. This should include discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

Details of how the school plans collective worship:

a) Weekly timetable - At our school, Collective Worship follows the following pattern.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole School HT led	Class Worship	Class Worship	Whole School Rev T/Rev Lesley	Whole School Celebration

b) those who are involved in planning collective worship – Church links, teaching staff and a pupil workshop group ('Lighting the candle')

c) evidence of an effective pattern of themes planned in advance, and available to all staff and worship leaders - Three Year plan (see Appendix 2)

d) evidence of use of varying types of worship experiences (e.g. prayer, music, silence, Bible reading, story, dance, puppets, pupil involvement and visitors etc)

e) methods of record keeping and evidence of daily records being kept – termly file, with Collective Worship evaluations and monitoring

f) allocation of budget, resources and Continuous Professional Development – agreed annually by Board of Directors



We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including music, silence, symbolism and the use of IT.

Our worship consists of 4 stages:

- Gather – we welcome the community, for example, (with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle)
- Engage – we share, for example, (a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message)
- Respond – pupils, for example, (discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing)
- Send – we share, for example, (the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with liturgy, final prayer, music and the blowing out of our special candle)

Expectations of pupils

Pupils regularly plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the collective worship leader during (lunchtime/ after school club) to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers.

Lighting the Candle Group – The Light the Candle group is made up of children in Year 1-Year 6 who discuss the teaching of RE and Collective Worship in our school. We help lead prayers during Collective Worship and help to create prayer spaces around school.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Evaluating the Collective Worship process

- a) The Church School Committee evaluate minimum of three Collective Worship sessions a year.
- b) Senior staff evaluate minimum of three Collective Worship sessions a year.
- c) Pupils from Years 1 to Years 6 evaluate Collective Worship from different weekdays, minimum of 6 evaluations per year.

Reviewing

Evaluations (mentioned above) will be reviewed termly by the Trust Lead and Head Teacher and appropriate steps taken, if necessary.

Self assessment and inspection

School self-assessment will be regularly reviewed using the required SIAMS toolkit, staff member responsible for Collective Worship and Head Teacher.

Parental Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from acts of Collective Worship on grounds of conscience. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

If students are withdrawn from collective worship, they are supervised by an adult outside the hall, no work is given to the child unless supplied by parents and children are reintegrated for any notices or presentations.



Information for visitors leading Collective Worship

When briefing visitors for school worship, make sure they know:

- who exactly will attend, whether it will be the whole school or a section of it, and if so, which section
- what the school's aims, ethos and policies are
- how long the speaker is expected to talk for (15 minutes)
- the current assembly theme and context for the speaker - what has already been done and what will be done later in the term
- how pupils and staff are normally involved in collective worship
- what resources or hardware are available to them, should they so wish
- exactly how much their contribution will be - is it just the talk or will they be asked to choose the hymn and lead the prayers
- Who will introduce them and how they will know when they are to start talking
- Any sensitivities concerning the school population such as multicultural, personal issues
- The responses that the children are familiar with and remember to:
- give them plenty of notice - don't assume that a visitor who wears an RE or religious "hat" can produce a collective worship at a few moments notice!
- invite them to attend an act of collective worship beforehand so that they may see how the school conducts them, or, if this is not practical, lend them a copy of the collective worship policy document
- some visitors may also need to be told that collective worship is not an appropriate vehicle for hard sell evangelism, and that inclusive language ("we all believe...") is to be avoided
- Visitors who are regularly involved in collective worship should appreciate sensitive feedback on the appropriateness of their contribution to the school Collective Worship programme.

Date of validation Signed..... Chair of Board

Date of review Signed..... Chair of Board

