Rawdon St. Peter's C of E Primary School

Policy for Collective Worship

Approved	16th September 2026
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Governor Committee	Church Links Committee

Introduction

In Church of England schools, collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

Collective Worship has a central place at the heart of Rawdon St Peter's, as it strengthens and supports the Christian Distinctiveness and Spiritual Development of our school and reaffirms our vision and core values. It celebrates the central role that each child has to play in the community and is an essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish and to Learn for Fullness of Life.

As a result of our Christian faith, we recognise our responsibility to show love and friendship, honesty, thankfulness, endurance, fairness and respect to all. These values are our Core Christian Values.

Our vision is to inspire, nurture and immerse ourselves in the world around us, exploring and embracing new opportunities. We promote love and friendship, honesty, endurance, fairness, thankfulness and respect, preparing us for new situations and challenges that life can bring. As God taught us, we love ourselves, each other and welcome everyone, exploring cultures and beliefs together. We learn together, love together and grow together.

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

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 Church school pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. We acknowledge that there are pupils and staff in our school that will come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, many pupils will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. 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 not be 'done to' but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. It is recognised that pupils will bring their own experience to worship. Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship.

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. The metaphor of 'warm fires and open doors' captures this idea. The warmth of the fire derives from the clarity and authenticity

of the Christian message at its heart. There is no value to an encounter with a watered down, lowest common denominator version of faith. Importantly the door is open, all are welcome to come in and sit as near or as far away from the fire as they feel comfortable. Pupils and adults should always only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way. Prayer should always be accompanied by the option to reflect.

Inspiring: Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter in a Church school to be inspirational. 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 their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, they should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should

The daily Act of Collective Worship will:

- Be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the school's Trust Deed and the Ethos Statement in the Instrument of Government:

  "That education in school shall always be in union with and conducted upon the principles and furtherance of the National Society and the established Church."

- Fulfill the legal requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act

- Be conducted in a way that recognises our duty to be inclusive, meeting the needs of all members of the school community with regard to age, ability, faith, family background and special educational needs.

Aims

1. To enable pupils to explore and respond to a variety of forms of worship, allowing those pupils with a religious commitment to deepen their experience of worship and those pupils without a religious commitment to appreciate what worship means for others.
2. To encourage a sense of awe and wonder and foster a respect for the environment, the world and its peoples.
3. To provide children with an understanding of the beliefs of the Christian Church, including God as Creator, the life and teachings of Jesus and the Holy Spirit as part of the Holy Trinity.
4. To engender a respect for the diversity of and differences between people.
5. To provide opportunities for children to consider spiritual and moral issues that they encounter in their daily lives.
6. To promote the values encapsulated in our school Mission Statement, particularly our Key Christian Values: Love and Friendship, Honesty, Fairness, Endurance, Thankfulness and Respect.
7. To develop a sense of community within and beyond school.

Learning Opportunities:

Our Collective Worship provides pupils and staff with a number of opportunities to learn. These include:

1. Time for stillness, reflection and the exploration of inner thoughts and feelings
2. Understanding/ knowledge of the beliefs of Christianity and other faiths;
3. Sharing feelings of appreciation, joy, hurt, sorrow, sadness and compassion;
4. Celebrating shared values and achievement;
5. Prayer expressing the essential beliefs of Christians and prayer which recognises that there is more to life than the ordinary.
6. Acknowledging the struggles and sufferings of other human beings;
7. Listening and responding to visitors who can contribute to Collective Worship.

Collective Worship and the Anglican Tradition

In seeking to provide acts of Collective Worship, which are both distinctive and inclusive, the following strategies are implemented:

- The Bible is used on a regular basis as a source for inspiration and learning
- The Lord's Prayer is shared.
- Traditional and modern hymns and psalms are a part of Collective Worship.
- The local vicar regularly leads acts of Collective Worship.
- Symbols of Christianity are used in reflection, including the cross and a candle.
- Opportunities for silent reflection are given to enable pupils to make a personal response.

The cycles of the Anglican Year are observed to include Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost and also Christian themes such as: sacrifice, forgiveness, honesty and bravery.

Music is used as the children enter worship and again as they leave the hall. This helps us create a purposeful and invitational, inclusive and inspiring.

Pupils from other faiths and their parents are made aware that they will not be required to say Christian prayers - they will be encouraged to use their own private devotions by thinking of prayers they have learned in their own faith traditions when Christian prayers are used. Pupils are encouraged to understand the beliefs of others including those of no faith.

Stories from other faith traditions form part of Collective Acts of Worship where common values can be explored and shared.

Festivals from other faiths are marked, acknowledged and celebrated– see calendar of themes and celebrations.

In 2025 the whole school was involved in the writing of a new school prayer, reflecting our school vision – this is now a key element of Collective Worship. Our school prayer is used regularly in Collective Worship but teachers may also use other prayers suitable to themes. Pupils use our prayer tree and also write the prayers for Collective Worship. Classes and pupils are invited to write their own prayers in a school prayer book kept in each key stage hall. These prayers are regularly used in Collective Worship.

Collective worship refers most specifically to the prayers and songs of praise that pupils take part in during assembly; this special time is marked by the lighting of a candle.

Organisation

The Staff and Governors of Rawdon St Peter's Church of England Primary School, in accordance with our Trust Deed and with the statutory requirements of the Church of England Education Office, place Collective Worship at the heart of our school's daily life.

The whole school attends St Peter's Church on the last Monday of each half term to worship and to reinforce our Church foundation.

The Collective Worship Leader produces a half termly plan for collective worship, which includes the themes to be developed, the visiting speakers and the members of staff responsible for leading Collective Worship.

All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdraw) participate in a daily act of Collective Worship. Arrangements for this are as follows:

	Main Feature of Worship	Worship usually led by
Monday	Whole School Worship - Liturgically based	Headteacher, Senior Leader, member of the clergy or Collective Worship Committee.
Tuesday	Picture News & Current Affairs	Class Teachers
Wednesday	Class Worship	Class Teachers
Thursday	Songs of Praise (in key stages)	Music and Singing Leaders
Friday	Whole School Worship to incorporate celebration & diversity.	Headteacher or Senior Leader Headteacher

Whole School Worship

Through our Collective Worship, we aim to foster a sense of belonging to a compassionate community - one that cares for one another, for God, and for the world around us. We draw on stories from the Bible to help children explore the teachings of Jesus and understand how they can live out those values in their daily lives.

Both children and staff are invited to contribute through their own questions and reflections and by making contributions through prayers.

As with other acts of worship, the start is marked with the lighting of a candle and coming together with through our key words:
Lead: This is our special time together.
Pupils: Let us light the candle.

At the end of the worship, children are invited to reflect through prayer and then brought to a formal close:
Lead: Let us leave our hall with kind and positive thoughts
Pupils: We will be the best we can be.

Picture News

Picture News offers children the opportunity to explore current issues affecting our world. It encourages them to learn something new, reflect thoughtfully, and appreciate the rich diversity of the society we live in.

Class Worship

Each week, class teachers lead their own Class Worship, providing a calm and reflective space for children to grow in self-awareness and understanding. These sessions focus on our half-termly value, and weekly 'Big Question' encouraging pupils to explore what it means both personally and collectively as a class community.

Every classroom includes a dedicated reflection area, featuring a prayer tree, a candle and reflection box, where both pupils and staff are invited to share their thoughts, prayers, and reflections.

Class Worship is a time for children to celebrate their achievements, for example swimming badges or something they are proud of. Bigger achievements, for example at a national level or those that could be inspirational to others, should be brought to Whole School Worship.

During Class Worship, children are also encouraged to give compliments and 'fill buckets' - a concept inspired by the book ***Have You Filled a Bucket Today?*** by Carol McCloud. This helps to nurture empathy and kindness, reinforcing positive relationships and emotional wellbeing. How this is done, is dependent on the age of the children making it purposeful and age appropriate. Communal Bucket Filling Stations can also be found around school allowing the whole school community to fill each other's buckets.

Songs of Praise

During Songs of Praise, children come together to sing and celebrate through music. While they enjoy traditional hymns, they also explore and appreciate a variety of musical styles from around the world, promoting a celebration of diversity and global culture

Whole School/Key Stage Celebration

Our whole school celebration is a valued time for the school community to come together and recognise weekly achievements through the lens of our Christian Values. It offers a moment for reflection, gratitude, and encouragement to live life in all its fullness by striving to be the best we can be.

Each week, the dedication and effort of two children are acknowledged through our 'Be the Best You Can Be' award, celebrating those who have truly embodied our school values.

Pupil Involvement

Pupils are encouraged to contribute to Collective Worship and to lead it also. An example of this is classes at KS2 taking a lead for the preparation of prayers and music for the weekly theme and for leading class-based worship in their own classes and in other classes.

Each week, pupils also help set up the hall and manage any audio and visual resources.

Visitors

Visitors who are invited to participate in an act of Collective Worship are chosen carefully so as to enrich the experience. The purpose of the visit is discussed and agreed in advance to ensure that they are clear about their role.

Evaluation of Collective Worship

There is a strong Church Links group chaired by a foundation governor from St. Peter's Church, this group meet to discuss Collective Worship, Church and community links etc. The Headteacher meets regularly with the elected Collective Worship Committee, a pupil group who assist in organising our Collective Worship themes and selection of hymns etc. Senior Leadership Team also consults with different stakeholders on a termly basis to gather views and opinions about Collective Worship and how effective it is.

The Headteacher also reviews and evaluates the way in which Collective Worship is being delivered and ensures that established themes are being followed.

Withdrawal

Parents may withdraw their child from Collective worship. To do this, parents should email the school office to arrange an appointment with the Headteacher.

Teachers, too, retain the right to withdraw from Collective Worship. This includes Headteachers. When there are insufficient teachers prepared to take Collective Worship, the Headteacher must take all reasonable steps to find other people suitable to do so.

Appendix One – Prayers

Whole School Prayer

Dear God,

We thank You Lord every day,
For friends and family, love and play.
Bless our school, keep us in Your care,
With thankful hearts we say this prayer.

Amen

Lunchtime Prayer

Dear God

Thank you for the food prepared for us,
The family beside us
And the love between us

Amen