

Castor Church of England Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

‘We have faith in God, ourselves and everyone around us in order to achieve our full potential academically, emotionally, socially and physically, thereby empowering us all to make a positive difference to the world.’

Date written:	March 2023
Written by:	Helen Boulton
Date approved:	23/03/23
Review date:	March 2024
Signed:	CSC Committee

Collective Worship at Castor Church of England Primary School takes place daily in accordance with the provisions of the Schools Standard and Framework Act 1998 and is in accordance with the school's Trust Deed:

“Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils”.

Aims:

Collective Worship is a very special and distinctive part of every school day. It is a time when the whole school can join together as a family in order to praise God and feel closer to Him. We are very aware that for some children, this may be their first or only encounter with the Christian faith and we therefore aim for it to be something personal, unique and memorable which they will recall positively and with fondness for the rest of their lives. For others, it will be a very fundamental element of their Christian journey. Above all, through our worship both in school and in our church, we aim for all children to have an awareness and understanding that “God is love” (1 John 4 v16).

We believe that acts of worship should:

- Be a time of celebration in which pupils discover that they are created in the image of God, and are individually valued and loved by Him unconditionally.
- Offer the children the opportunity to hear about, learn and become familiar with the story of Jesus in word, song and prayer.
- Invite the children to explore and develop their own spirituality through times of stillness and reflection.
- Develop the children's understanding of our Christian values and how these impact our everyday lives.
- Encourage respect for the beliefs of others.
- Illustrate that pupils belong not only to their family group but also to the community of the church, school, village and beyond.
- Develop their role as global citizens and their rights and how they make a positive difference in the world in which they live.
- Encourage children to confidently plan, lead and evaluate worship by taking an active role.
- Provide and maintain the strong links with our church, St Kyneburgha's and continue to develop and enhance the very strong relationship we have with it as set out in the Church School Agreement.

Within all acts of collective worship we aim to be:

- **INCLUSIVE** - of all, including those of different faiths and those of no faith.
- **INVITATIONAL** - there is freedom for all to engage.
- **INSPIRATIONAL** - it is creative and inspires pupils to take action and reflect on their behaviour, values and attitudes.

Organisation of Collective worship:

Daily acts of Collective Worship, as set out in the Worship Calendar, take place in the school hall. Larger services, such as Harvest Festival or School Eucharists, usually take place in St Kyneburgha's as the wider school family is always invited. Occasionally, the daily act of worship is held within the classrooms. All staff - including support and administrative staff, are invited and encouraged to attend. The Lord's Prayer, The Grace and The Peace are all regularly included within worship.

One of the school's six core Christian values is focussed upon each half term. These are:

Kindness
Forgiveness
Friendship
Respect
Trust
Hope

On Mondays, the act of worship follows general Christian themes and teachings and incorporates the value for that particular half term. It is led by the Headteacher. The structure of this collective worship also includes a song of praise, a story or interactive talk, a link to a Bible reading, a period of reflection, a prayer, the Lord's Prayer and the dismissal. This time is also used to develop and focus on our role as a UNICEF school.

On Tuesdays, all the children join together to learn hymns and songs in a Songs of Praise act of worship. The words are explained and their meanings are explored. The hymns chosen fit into the rest of the week's worship, reflect the Christian season appropriately or a future Church event. It always concludes with a prayer.

On Wednesdays, worship is led by different members of staff with their class and is organised on a rota basis. This can focus on a New or Old Testament story which links with the current Christian value and may be a further exploration of the story or theme introduced during Monday's act of worship. Pupils from all year groups across the school are encouraged to plan and lead worship as well as evaluate its effectiveness. The Wednesday act of worship is also an opportunity for individual classes to lead worship which they have planned and prepared. Children are

encouraged to lead all aspects of the worship and also be as independent as possible during the planning process (dependent on age).

The Thursday act of worship follows a specific pattern which is based on the lectionary. A member of the church team (either a member of the clergy or a lay person) shares the following Sunday's Gospel reading – either telling, reading, or acting out the passage with children. The message of the Gospel is then explored. During this act of worship, the whole school participates in structured worship based on the practice of a short church service, to familiarise them with and to explore their own spirituality within the concept of liturgy. Importantly, it also strengthens our links with St Kyneburgha's as children become regularly acquainted with familiar faces from the church. Furthermore, all of the children who also attend St Kyneburgha's Children's Church group, or worship at family services such as the monthly Family Praise service, already have a good awareness of the weekly Gospel passage and so their understanding and faith can be explored at an even deeper level.

The Friday act of worship is a whole school assembly in which the children celebrate the school's and their own personal achievements. Pupils' work behaviour, activities and learning are celebrated. This is conducted by the Head teacher or Deputy Head and emphasises community and individual achievements and how we use our God-given talents and gifts. Children also celebrate the achievements of the House to which they belong. A worship element can be clearly identified and parents are invited.

Notices will be given at the appropriate time during collective worship

Special Acts of Collective Worship.

There are regular occasions when we have special services, either in school or church and pupils and staff are always invited to play an active role.

Established church services are held at least once a term, for example: Ash Wednesday, St. Kyneburgha's Day, Harvest, Christmas and the Leavers Service. Pupils are encouraged to take a major part in the planning, preparation and delivery of these acts of worship. Parents and members of the community are always invited and welcome to attend.

Eucharist services are also held once a term, either in the school hall or the church. Those children who have already been confirmed or who have made their First Communion are welcome to receive Communion, as are parents and members of staff. All others are invited to receive a blessing. Strong links between the church and the school ensure all are informed about annual First Communion workshops and also Confirmation classes.

All acts of collective worship are carefully planned to ensure relevance in terms of the Church's year, but are always flexible in order to incorporate current and topical issues. The expectation is that they are engaging, celebratory and positive, but that they will also provide times of reflection and stillness. This will be achieved through interaction, singing and prayer.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. The school website informs parents of their legal right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship. Any parents with concerns or questions about collective worship are encouraged to contact the Headteacher.

MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Headteacher, Worship Co-Ordinator and several governors meet regularly as the Church, School and Community Committee. Their role is to monitor and evaluate acts of collective worship and ensure that the whole Governing Body is kept well informed to enable it to fulfil its responsibility to ensure the Foundation of the school is honoured and that the collective worship policy is firmly based on upon the intentions set out in the Trust Deed.

REVIEW

The Governing Body will review this policy one year from the date of its adoption.