



Eastnor Primary School

'Inspire and Achieve'

Collective Worship Policy

Date	Review
September 2016	GB Approved
September 2017	Review and Approved

Aims

"A gathering of children and staff to explore or respond to deeply held beliefs and values through a range of activities."

"RE is exploration... Collective Worship is revelation"

- To create a special time with atmosphere conducive to worship.
- To enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils.
- To foster reflection, meditation, prayer silence and stillness.
- To create an atmosphere in which worship is both normal and natural.
- To consider spiritual and moral issues
- To respond to the worship offered.
- To foster a reverential attitude to God.
- To explore praise and prayer and to affirm the Christian faith.
- To learn about and reflect upon Christian Teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals in a way that relates to the pupils' experiences and to living together in community.
- To recognise the beliefs and culture of others, particularly those represented in the school and wider community.
- To develop a sense of community and shared values.
- To consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works.
- To celebrate achievements

Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually provided within a daily assembly.

The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the head teacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted.

Collective worship in foundation schools with a religious character and voluntary schools will be in accordance with the school's trust deed. Where provision is not made by a trust deed, the worship should be in accordance with the beliefs of the religion or denomination specified for the school.

Legal Requirements

- There must be a daily act of worship for all children.
- Parents can legally request that children be withdrawn from Collective Worship on the grounds of religious difference if they wish to but should see the Head Teacher.
- The act of worship is not included in curriculum time.
- Staff can legally withdraw from Collective Worship.

Organisation of Collective Worship

The Staff and Governors of Eastnor Church of England Primary School place Collective Worship at the centre of the school's daily life. It is a time when we come together to share Christian values and experiences of our everyday lives, to develop the spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding of our pupils. It is therefore important that wherever possible all members of staff attend Collective Worship.

Collective Worship is organised for the whole school. It is led by different members of the teaching staff, a range of visiting church ministers, outside speakers and also the pupils in school. This enables us to provide an exciting and varied approach towards our collective worship and greatly enhances the school's Christian character.

The school respects the fact that children will come from a range of religious backgrounds and from homes without religion. All acts of worship will therefore be planned to allow for a variety of responses and to encourage the participation and involvement of all.

Different year 6 children are responsible for preparing the church for Collective Worship –organising technology, preparing our song, setting up chairs resources, instruments etc.

Day	Main Focus of Worship	Special Features	Adult Lead
Monday	Whole school Praise & Worship Singing		Year 5/6 Teacher and Head of Music
Tuesday	Christian Value Worship Roots & Shoots used to support Multi - cultural focus	Planned and lead by Voice of Values Council	RE Co-ordinator
Wednesday	Understanding Christianity		Rev Joan Wakeling
Thursday *	Open the Book	Links to the wider school community Family Assembly	Key stage 1 Co-ordinator
Friday	Celebration assembly: This includes reflecting on the weeks' events & achievements, awarding the Christian Value certificates, Pupil of the Week & Head teacher awards, Birthdays, extra-curricular activities and club music performances		Head teacher Senior teacher

Planning, Content & Coverage

The head teacher and RE co-ordinator, alongside the Reverend Keith Hilton –Turvey (Foundation Governor) and Reverend Joan Wakeling (Associate Governor) produce a half termly plan for collective worship based on the Roots and Shoots scheme which include the themes to be developed, the visiting speakers, the chosen prayers and which members of staff are responsible for Collective Worship.

Collective Worship planning is outlined on a Half-Term Plan and includes features such as:

- Biblical theme
- Anglican prayer
- Visitors from other churches
- Charity links
- School initiatives such as Sport Relief
- Healthy Clubs promotion developing God-given gifts and talents
- Club performances
- Music Performances
- Child-led worship where the parents are invited
- Friday award celebration and performances with parents

1 John 3:11 "For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another."

- Highlights of the half term and pupil-led praise/thankfulness at the end of the half-term.

Content will take into account the ages, background and abilities of the children and may cover: ~

- Christian values
- Events in school
- Individual, group or class achievements
- National events
- Attitudes
- Feelings
- Attributes
- Character
- Belief
- Christian Festivals and other festivals
- The Church Year
- The World around us
- Curriculum links- particularly RE

Collective Worship may contain a focus story (possibly dramatised), a hymn, a time for reflection and/or response, a time for prayer. See also: ~ Appendix A – Progression through KS1 and KS2 and Appendix B - "Six Principles of Collective Worship"

Children will use thinking stones during their walk to church so that they have time to reflect on the day. They are expected to enter and leave the place of worship quietly to develop an atmosphere of calmness and reverence.

Reflection and Evaluation

Each class has the opportunity to complete a reflection/evaluation at different points through the week. This enables children to record their thoughts and feelings, linked to Collective Worship and the Christian Values.

Members of the Voice of Values Council also complete a daily evaluation to share their feelings about the impact of Collective Worship.

Staff also regularly evaluate collective worship.

Praise and Prayer

We give children the opportunity to develop spiritually in the gathering together for Daily Worship to praise the Awe and Wonder of God and

the beauty of the world that God has created; to pray together, to learn about the teachings of both the Old and New Testament with particular emphasis on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

With different leaders during the week come a variety of approaches and styles that provide interest and stimulation for the children. We welcome the use of puppets, music, dance, role-play and the active participation of the children during story-telling.

Life Application

Children are given opportunities to consider what is important in our lives, about beliefs and values, and apply their beliefs to practical situations in their lives. They are taught to understand and respect the beliefs of other cultures and religions.

Family Community

Through our Daily Worship, we aim to bring an awareness of what it means to be part of a community, which cares for each other, for God and for the environment. Parents are invited to join us for collective worship each Thursday, and for special services such as those to mark Remembrance. By doing this, we hope that pupils will develop the ability to explore issues for themselves, be able to reflect upon and learn from experiences and develop a sense of Awe and Wonder about the wider world, whilst understanding their role and responsibilities to their local community.

Equal Opportunities

Staff and Governors are committed to ensuring that opportunities for worship are relevant to all pupils and pay due regard to their ages, abilities and interests. We aim to recognise the equality of each child in God's sight, whatever the child's gender, race, physical or mental ability. Pupils currently take part in collective worship and often lead worship, however, each parent has the right to withdraw their child for religious reasons

Special Education Needs

Staff and Governors seek to ensure that materials and subject matter used in Collective Worship are appropriate for the range of abilities of all pupils in school.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Eastnor we seek to be an inclusive community, however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Head of School/Worship Co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school has a system of suitable supervision for pupils withdrawn from Acts of

1 John 3:11 "For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another."

Collective Worship, however, no additional work is set or followed during this time.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship will be monitored by the head teacher, RE Coordinator and the governing body:

Strategies staff currently use for assessing the outcomes of Collective Worship include:

- Observation of children's reaction and participation during worship
- Feedback from children in class - written or verbal.
- Feedback from the Voice of Values Council
- Parents' comments.
- Observation by Foundation Governors
- Observations of the quality of Worship by external visitors

Appendix A

Progression through KS1 and KS2

Early Years/KS1: Collective Worship should provide opportunity for children to: ~

- Recognise their own value as individuals
- Recognise their own feelings/response to others
- Recognise their own feelings/responses to different situations
- Reflect on their own relationships with others
- Reflect on the awe and wonder- wow! of the world
- Recognise their individual responsibilities to selves and their world
- Begin to see some questions may not have an answer
- Realise some people believe in God and belong to a church/faith community
- Share in special occasions/festivals of Christian faith/other cultures, faiths and traditions

KS2: Collective Worship should provide opportunity for children to: ~

- Reflect on their value as individuals
- Recognise their responsibilities to selves and their world
- Reflect on the awe and wonder of the world
- Develop empathy with others
- Begin to find their own answers to ultimate questions, Who am I? Why am I here? Why death?
- Recognise that beliefs affect life and actions
- Recognise the religious response to life's problems, journey and ultimate questions
- Develop understanding of the value and significance of sacred writing, symbols and ritual in the life of a believer
- Participate in festivals, celebrations, occasions from the Christian year and other faiths.

Appendix B

Collective Worship ~ Six Principles (In no particular order)

Occasion

- Uses a wide variety of resources and approaches
- Special time
- Special atmosphere
- Spiritual dimension
- Different to the rest of the day

Inclusive

- An activity and experience for all
- All can contribute
- All can take part/respond
- Integrity of child not compromised

Curricular

- An intentional learning experience
- Planned, prepared, evaluated
- Resourced and financed
- Springboard for what goes on in the school
- A unique part of the curriculum

Educational

- A learning experience
- Contributes to the child's education
- Time to present/reflect on common values
- Opportunity to use gifts and talents

Contributes to RE

- Uses elements of a faith group worship
- Explores worship
- Develops spirituality
- Uses pattern of Church Year
- Similar to worship in the church

Shaped

- Groupings as fits the school

1 John 3:11 "For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another."

- Time/place/style
- Reflects worship in the local church
- Reliably Christian

Appendix C

Christian Values

We explore different Christian values month by month during collective worship, in lessons and during everyday school life. Our Voice of Values Council lead collective worship each week to reflect further upon each value. They help all of the children in school develop a better understanding of each values meaning and how it will impact their lives. The Voice of Values Council also share their learning about each value with the Eastnor parents and families on our weekly newsletter.

This year, the Voice of Values Council have chosen these fundamental Christian values for us to reflect upon as a school during the 2017/2018 academic year. They have chosen a value for each month, making links to the Christian calendar, school events and celebrations, their own leaning and to experiences they will have both inside and outside school.

- * September - **Creation/ Koinonia**
- * October - **Thankfulness**
- *November - **Humility**
- *December - **Reverence and Service**
- *January - **Friendship and Trust**
- *February - **Wisdom**
- *March - **Compassion**
- *April - **Forgiveness and Justice**
- *May - **Endurance**
- *June - **Hope**
- *July - **Peace**