



Collective Worship Policy

The Governing Body of Elvington CE Primary School endeavours to write and adopt policies that are fully inclusive for all children / staff / parents / carers / Governors and members of the wider community.

Policy approved by Governors:	February 2023
Signature of Chair of Governors:	
Date for renewal:	February 2025





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Rationale

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school. It reaffirms our vision and associated values of respect, hope, perseverance, friendship, thankfulness and trust and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. This 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.

This policy is underpinned by our vision of supporting each child and adult to flourish and live “life in all its fullness”.

Collective Worship at Elvington CE Primary School is planned to:

- be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and life in the school.
- will regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the schools core Christian values.
- will have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity (as displayed in the School Hall).
- will help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- will challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection and Stillness.
- will contribute significantly to pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with “something more than the obvious, something to wonder at and something to respond to.”
- will be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.

Collective worship should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

The Headteacher will:

- ensure that the legal requirements for worship are met, including a clear statement on Collective Worship in the school prospectus.
- ensure that Collective Worship reflects the Christian ethos of the school and is based on the principles of the Church of England.
- set high expectations and monitor Collective Worship, supporting individual teachers when necessary.
- ensure that Collective Worship is planned and delivered according to the agreed themes.
- keep up-to-date with the latest documents and current developments in Collective Worship.



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- work closely with the Church community and invite visitors into school to lead, enhance and enrich Collective Worship.
- encourage a whole-school approach, ensuring parents, governors and staff are kept informed of new developments, changes, resources etc.
- maintain the SMSC/Values for Life section of the school website.

Governors will:

- uphold the Christian foundations of the school. Foundation Governors will have a particular responsibility for ensuring that the Christian ethos is reflected in Collective Worship.
- ensure that the legal requirements for worship are met.
- be well-informed through the leadership of the Headteacher.
- support the staff and Headteacher in implementing the school's policy for Collective Worship.
- attend, take part in, monitor and lead Collective Worship when appropriate.

All Staff Members will:

- lead daily worship on a rota basis.
- follow the planning cycle for Collective Worship.
- use lit candles to mark the beginning of worship when appropriate.
- use music to set the scene and create an appropriate atmosphere as the children enter and leave Collective Worship.
- choose appropriate scripture passages to reflect the age and aptitude of the children.
- provide time for quiet reflection, asking the children to close their eyes to aid thinking and concentration.
- encourage the children to ask questions and reflect on what they see and hear.
- provide a variety of experiences and activities, employing teaching methods and resources that allow all pupils (irrespective of gender, ethnic origin, academic ability etc.) to have equal access to Collective Worship.
- provide opportunities for children to make links and connections between different areas of worship and life.

Children will:

- take part in a daily act of worship and through their own Worship group have the opportunity to plan and then lead Collective Worship.
- begin to explore and understand the beauty, mystery and power of the world.
- celebrate worship through prayer, song, drama and art.
- have opportunities to celebrate what is good about life in our school, our community, our homes, our surroundings and to share our success and failures.
- be given opportunities to share their thoughts appropriate to the occasion.
- be given opportunities for quiet reflection in shared moments of stillness.
- have opportunities to celebrate, give thanks and share emotions such as joy, hope, friendship, concern and forgiveness.
- begin to understand that concern for others is part of belonging to a caring community.
- be given opportunities to plan and lead Collective Worship on a regular basis.



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Parents/carers will:

- be well-informed of the Christian foundations of the school.
- be encouraged to attend Collective Worship at special times during the school year.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body to provide a daily act of Collective Worship, which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. This is stated in the school prospectus and handbook and parents contact needs to be made with the Headteacher.

Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

We will endeavour to ensure that all acts of worship will be free from bias and inclusive of all religious and non-religious beliefs. We will follow the aims set out in our 'Equality and Inclusion Policies'.

Planning Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by listening to music or asking children to reflect quietly.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4-stage structure of planning including, 'gathering' 'engaging' 'responding' and 'sending.' There should also be space for evaluation. The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the Schools Council and Pupil Voice. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning, leading and monitoring of Collective worship. One of the schools governors has a role monitoring Collective worship on a termly basis.

The programme of acts of Collective Worship are coordinated by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator in consultation with the Headteacher.

A Checklist for Individual Acts of Worship

The key features of an act of worship should be evaluated:



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- Is it well planned and in keeping with the school's policy?
- Is it inclusive? Can anyone take part regardless of faith background or academic ability?
- Is there a focal point? E.g. a religious symbol such as a cross, a more general spiritual symbol such as a candle, perhaps a picture on an overhead screen: a religious painting or a photograph of a beautiful scene?
- How effectively is the atmosphere created? Is the physical space and the space in the day marked as special or sacred through the varied use of music, lighting, seating, singing, etc.
- Is a spiritual stimulus provided? Over time, is there sufficient variety? For some people a spiritual moment will be enhanced by poetry, for some art, or dance, or a story, or a news item etc. Is this variety reflected? Are different cultures represented through the choice of material? Is worship in keeping with the Anglican tradition?
- Is time for personal reflection provided?
- Is time for a personal response given?
- Have pupils been challenged to think about their own beliefs and actions in the light of what they have heard?

Pattern of Collective Worship

Acts of worship generally follow themes that are linked to the schools vision and values and include the pattern of the church's year.

Monday	Whole school Collective Worship to launch the week's focus.
Tuesday	Newsday Tuesday - Christianity focus on a local, national or international news story.
Wednesday	Whole School Worship led by the local vicar.
Thursday	Class worship led by the class teacher or children.
Friday	Celebration Worship where we celebrate achievements in the week.

Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.



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Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship

Teaching staff, members of the parish team and Yo-yo are involved on a regular basis with the worship programme. Other staff and pupils are also given the opportunity of being involved in this programme every term.

Monitoring and evaluation

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of Collective Worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our suggestion boxes and questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis.

Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York (SIAMS).

This policy outlines the principles on which Collective Worship takes place at Elvington Church of England Primary School.