



Collective Worship Policy

Approved by:	Learning & Development Committee/FGB	Date: 12.12.2024
Reviewed:	November 2024	
Next review due :	November 2026	

Every day we gather as a community of learners and leaders, recognising and nurturing each individual and their gifts. Following Jesus' example, we aspire to be inclusive, compassionate and caring, valuing curiosity and embracing challenge to prepare our children for an ever-changing world. We are guided by our values of Love, Faith and Hope. From our first day, all and one are nourished: spiritually, emotionally, academically and physically.

Update Record

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COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Every member of the Ramsgate Holy Trinity 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 person is nurtured with Love, Hope and Faith

1 Corinthians 13:13 New Living Translation (NLT)

Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love

In line with our schools Spirituality statement worship will aim to share:

- Love - 'We show **Love** towards ourselves, others and the world around us by opening a WINDOW to new opportunities, deepening our understanding of the world and those living in it' - *Serve one another in love. Galatians 5:13*
- Faith - 'We have the **Faith** to look in the MIRROR and reflect on how the new knowledge and awareness makes us feel' - *To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see. Hebrews 11:1.*
- Hope- 'We step through the DOOR to share Hope for a better world and those who live within it' - *Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my saviour, and my hope is in you all day long. Psalm 25:5*

Introduction

Collective worship is regarded as central to the affirmation of our Christian values of Faith, Hope and Love, as well as our underlying values and the distinctive character of the school. It offers important opportunities to strengthen our community, reinforcing the positive feelings we have for one another. Collective worship also makes a valuable contribution to our children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Although we expect all of our children to attend collective worship, we endeavour to make it an invitational experience, in recognition of the different faiths/ non-faith represented by in our school community.

Aims

Collective Worship at Ramsgate Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School, we aim to support the school's vision and Values, by providing opportunities for everyone to engage with worship:

The broad aims of collective worship include:

- To introduce pupils to the experience of Christian worship and teaching in an open and caring atmosphere;
- To foster a sense of unity by valuing and celebrating belonging to a caring school within the wider Christian community;

- To provide opportunities for expressing thankfulness and wonder for God's creation;
- To develop a sensitivity towards an awareness of the spiritual dimension of life;
- To enhance the spiritual, moral and cultural development of pupils by encouraging reflection on moral and social issues;
- To create an awareness of our own moral responsibilities by drawing on Christian teachings and other resources;
- To encourage pupils to reflect on their own values and those of others;
- To allow pupils to experience Anglican traditions and to encourage understanding and tolerance towards others;
- To enable pupils to express and understand their faith in a school setting;
- To foster school unity by celebrating the achievements of others.

Collective worship and the legal requirements

Collective Worship is a legal requirement. As a school, we comply with the legal requirement to provide every child with a daily act of worship, unless withdrawn by his/her parent.

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

As a voluntary aided school, the act of worship must satisfy the trust deed of the school that the worship is consistent with Anglican belief and practice. According to the Education Act 1988 Section 9(3), parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of worship and the responsibility of the child remains the duty of the school.

As a Church School, with a clear statement of its commitment to Christian values, it is hoped that all parents would wish their children to take part in the provision for collective worship and would discuss any concerns with the head teacher before applying to withdraw their children.

Organisation

Acts of worship take the form of whole school OPAL and Celebration worship, class worship, Key Stage worship, whole school worship, whole school 'Praise and Reflection' and services at Holy Trinity Ramsgate.

We broadly follow the Diocesan planning: 'A Fresh Approach'.

A typical week's worship might include the following:

Monday - whole school - OPAL and worship

During OPAL worship we aim to embrace moments of play (OPAL) as spiritual experiences, amplifying our understanding of spirituality, as it merges the tangible joy of play with the intangible sense of awe and wonder. By

engaging in outdoor play, we further our children's connections to spirituality, fostering introspection, inspiration, and an appreciation for the vastness of existence beyond ourselves.

Tuesday - whole school

Wednesday – whole school - Praise and Reflection (worship through song)

Thursday – Key Stage worship

Friday – whole school celebration and worship

Collective worship is planned and delivered by a variety of stakeholders including staff, a member of the clergy, groups of children, or visitors from organisations such as charities.

Services are held in the church at Easter, Harvest and on other occasions as appropriate. At these services the pupils, taken from all year groups, take an active part in the preparation and delivery: through writing their own prayers, readings, selecting of hymns and contributions made through music, artwork and drama. Parents are invited to attend these services.

All class teachers are committed to the value of collective worship in promoting Christian values and developing the overall ethos and values of the school. **Class/Key Stage worship** allows the leader to pitch the worship at an appropriate level to the children. Class worship involves children in a range of activities to encourage a sense of the act of worship being a special occasion and that religious ideas are not only expressed verbally.

Praise and Reflection gives an opportunity for children to explore the significance and meaning of the words sung in hymns and choruses appropriate to the Christian calendar and season. A time of quiet reflection is given and individual children or staff are given the opportunity to offer a prayer.

Planning and Co-ordination

Whole school assembly themes are drawn up for each term in line with the Diocesan Board of Education Collective Worship Framework: 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. The Collective Worship co-ordinator distributes a list of these to teaching staff to enable assembly themes to be explored / referred to in class worship and curriculum lessons.

The co-ordinator is also responsible for the planning, preparation and coordination of the services held in the parish churches. The collective worship co-ordinator liaises with clergy, and other groups such as charitable organisations, over practical arrangements and worship content.

Live worship music is provided during the week by our music co-ordinator.

Delivery and Content

The acts of worship are designed to be appropriate to the age range and abilities of the children in the school.

Although the format of individual acts of worship different in content, the aim is to provide a varied range of styles and experiences, which include listening, singing, reflective silence and prayer. Worship may also include Drama, Pair partner activities shared celebrations of Spirituality (OPAL) and mixed Key Stage discussion.

Active worship is invitational.

Collective worship therefore will be:

- **Inclusive** – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching.
- **Invitational** – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to ‘do anything’. Rather, worship will 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. Pupils and adults will only be invited to pray and sing if they wish to do so.
- **Inspiring** – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community’s behaviour and actions.

Resources and Budgeting

A variety of resources are available to support collective worship, including books, magazines (RE today subscription) music and Picture News Subscription. Resources for collective worship are obtained from a dedicated budget allocation. This Government pays for copyright licensing.

Review

This policy will be subject to review and revision by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator.

Signed..... Date.....

(Chair of Governors/Headteacher)