



St Paul's C of E VA Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Last Reviewed : November 2023

Next Review: November 2025

L Varney

Headteacher
Chair of
governors

Date: _____
15.11.23

S Morrill

Date: _____
15.11.23

Introduction

Our school was formed by a Trust Deed as the school of the parish of St. Paul's Chipperfield and has retained close links with the Parish Church. Collective Worship is therefore in accordance with the "Principles and Practices of the Church of England."

The ethos as laid down in the school's Instrument of Government is: -

"Recognising its historical 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." We aim to create an inclusive, caring and sharing ethos where the whole school community can flourish.

Our school motto: "**Love to Learn; Learn to Love,**" inspired by the story of the Good Samaritan is based on the greatest commandment "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12;31) Our vision for our pupils is to: demonstrate Christian values of love, honesty, understanding and respect, by working together in school, village and world communities, celebrating differences .

Collective worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school. It is not 'Religious Education' but it is an oasis in the day when the community meets together in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and is given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is quality time and represents something special and separate from the ordinary school routine.

Aims

The aim of this policy is to provide guidance and clarity for our collective worship, ensuring that during this time, pupils have the opportunities to:

- Worship God
- Develop the skills of reverence, contemplation, reflection, empathy and meditation
- Reflect on values and our own beliefs
- Develop a sense of community and shared ethos
- Consider spiritual and moral issues.

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of worship for all pupils (which can take place at any time of day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups).

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be considered as part of the RE lesson (for time purposes).

In this voluntary aided school, responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the governing body after consultation with the Headteacher. All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. Children may be withdrawn from assemblies, on religious grounds, on the written request of parents after consultation with the Headteacher.

Collective Worship at our School

Collective worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it: -

- Those who form part of a worshipping Church community;
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of Church;
- Those from other Christian traditions, or none.
- Those from other faith backgrounds

Collective worship at our school is more than a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life.

Organisation

A form of collective worship takes place every day for approximately 15 to 20 minutes. This may be extended when we have "special" acts of worship, for example at Church, or have visitors. Children in the Foundation Stage have their own shorter collective act of worship each day in class, apart from on a Friday when the Reception children come to achievement assembly.

Themes for acts of worship are planned by the Headteacher and vicar at half termly planning meetings. They consider the Church Year, Diocesan guidelines, our Christian Values Education and the Jigsaw approach to PSHE and needs arising from within the school community when planning assemblies. A log of acts of worship is maintained and this is revisited when evaluating and planning collective worship at half termly meetings.

Daily acts of worship which vary in content and leadership take place throughout the week. E.g.

Monday	Collective worship led by Pupil Leadership
Tuesday	Collective worship led by Headteacher
Wednesday	Collective worship led by Visitor
Thursday	Collective worship led by Music Lead
Friday	Celebration of achievements led by Headteacher

Structure of Collective worship

Although the focus of Collective Worship varies, it is a time set aside for sharing, community, celebration and reflection.

To retain the collective worship element as something special and separate, we use the Gather; Engage; Respond and Send approach. Worship may be enhanced by the lighting of a candle, a liturgical greeting, the use of appropriate music and visual images on the large screen. Music can be used to create atmosphere when the children enter and leave assembly or when reflecting.

There is always an opportunity for prayer and reflection, as well as a hymn. A reflection tree is available for children to add their prayer requests and thoughts. Most assemblies include a reading, story or talk.

Evaluation and Review

In addition to termly meetings between key worship leaders, evaluation takes place through regular meetings of the Collective Worship Committee. This comprises of pupils who are keen to give feedback and develop worship. The school council; pupil voice questionnaires and interviews also inform our practice. These have been very informative in the development of Collective Worship. Logs of Collective Worship are reviewed by the RE subject leader for coverage and are used to advise future planning. Governors are invited to any acts of worship they can attend and feedback to the Headteacher.