



## ENGLEFIELD CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

#### *Sowing the seeds for a flourishing future*

##### **Introduction**

Our vision states that *“Our loving environment cultivates the foundations of mutual respect and the understanding that every child is special in God's eyes. Our children are the seeds from which we will build a brighter future. We nurture and nourish them so they grow and flourish.”*

As a Church of England Voluntary Aided School we greatly value the opportunity collective worship provides for the spiritual development, personal development and nourishment of each child so they can live life in all its fullness, and the positive impact it has on the ethos of the whole school.

Collective Worship should be *‘a rich source of inspiration for the whole school, and a focus for all that is good and worthy of celebration’* (Bath and Wells Diocese). It is an important part of our school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community to reflect on our values, develop our appreciation of all that life has to offer, and offer praise and thanks to God. It is attended by all pupils and staff; any visitors in school are welcome and encouraged to join in.

##### **Aims of Collective Worship**

Our Collective Worship is of a broadly Christian character, based on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. We conduct our Collective Worship in a manner that is sensitive to the variety of faiths and beliefs of all members of the school community as it should help all pupils to flourish, have dignity, respect each other and be able to live well together. To support this, celebrations and beliefs from other faiths will be incorporated into assemblies and curriculum work.

Our Collective Worship aims to be inclusive, invitational and inspiring and an expression of our school's vision. It:

- provides the opportunity for the school community to praise and worship God;
- enables children to consider spiritual, moral and cultural issues;
- enables children to explore their own beliefs;
- encourages participation and response;
- develops in children a sense of community spirit;
- promotes a common ethos, with shared values;
- reinforces positive attitudes;
- teaches children how to enjoy and get the most out of worship.

Collective Worship is a time where teachers and pupils may express joy and thankfulness to God, share concerns and experiences and affirm the beliefs and values of the school community of which they are a part and the Church to which they may belong.

## Vision and Values

Our collective worship is largely planned around the different aspects of our Vision and Values as these combine to provide a strong Christian message. A number of these link to positive behaviour characteristics which we ask God to support us all in developing and putting into practice.

Our values are grouped under five headings which are used regularly by staff and pupils throughout the school:

- Love of God
- Love of Others
- Love of Myself
- Love of God's World
- Love of Life

## Organisation of Collective Worship in our school

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time but is generally held at the start or end of the day as it provides all participants with the opportunity to prepare for the day ahead or to reflect on what has been. We also try to be creative in our location for worship so at times this will be out in the school grounds.

Our collective worship is planned as follows across the week:

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Whole School</b> (Headteacher)
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Whole School</b> (Clergy/Church)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Key Stage</b> (KS1 – teacher led; KS2 - pupil led)
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Whole School</b> (worship through music)
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Celebration Assembly</b> (parents invited) or <b>Whole School</b> (worship group/SLT)

Collective Worship will usually follow the following format:

- The worship will have a **clear focus** which will be displayed on the assembly board in the hall. We have a two-year cycle of themes based on our school values; each theme lasts for a minimum of two weeks to ensure pupils have plenty of time and opportunity to reflect and to embed their understanding and thoughts.
- The worship usually lasts between 10 and 20 minutes.
- Assembly monitors will prepare the room ready for the start of worship – set out the candle, have the music playing and select a pupil ready to light the candle.
- The prayer tables around school, including the hall, will display pictures, books or artefacts which focus on the current theme. These are prepared weekly by the worship group.
- If the worship is taking place in the hall, children are expected to walk in and out in an attitude of quiet reflection listening to the **music** being played. They are encouraged to listen thoughtfully while they are waiting for the act of worship to begin.

- The worship will begin with a **welcome** by the leader such as “Good morning everybody.” Participants then respond with *“Good morning Mrs X, good morning everybody.”*
- A member of the worship group will **light the candle**. They will say “As we light the candle we say...” and participants will respond with: *“Jesus is the Light of the world”*.
- The leaders will then say “This is the day that the Lord has made,” and the participants will respond with *“Let us rejoice and be glad in it.”*
- The **worship** will usually be focused on Bible teachings but may use a range of resources to reinforce the message. This may include: poetry, stories, drama, artefacts, a PowerPoint presentation, videos, interactive activities and so on. Pupil participation is greatly encouraged as is a clear focus on the theme.
- When a Bible passage is used, the leader will say “Your word is a lamp to our feet,” and the participants will respond with *“And a light to our path.”*
- A **song** will be sung which relates to the theme of the worship;
- There will be a quiet time for **reflection or a prayer**. Prayers may be taken from Common Worship, other collections of prayers, teachers’ own resources or children’s own work. Short poems or quotations may also be used.
- The following may be used:

*“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.*

*“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen”*

- To **close**, members of the worship group will come up to the front and say, “As we blow out the candle we say...” and the participants will respond with, *“Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus.”*
- The **music** will then be played as each class leaves quietly.

In addition to the daily act of worship, pupils and staff will have the opportunity to say or sing a grace prior to lunch and will finish the day with an end of day prayer. In each class there is a place for prayer and reflection.

Our whole school acts of worship recognise and celebrate special events in the Christian calendar. Special services to celebrate Harvest, Christmas and Easter take place in St Marks Church, Englefield. We also use our church to celebrate other special times in the school year, particularly our Year 6 Leavers Service at the end of the academic year.

## **Community Links**

Parents are encouraged to attend our special services at St Mark's and other special events such as our annual nativity play. From time to time our school choir is invited to perform in Sunday services at St Mark's.

We like to welcome special visitors and guest speakers to our assemblies, such as visiting clergy from other churches and religions, as well as representatives from the charities which the school particularly supports.

We aim to hold a celebration assembly every fortnight to which parents and families are invited to attend and each class leads an act of worship each year to which their parents are invited.

Members of the local community and children from the Old Fire Station Nursery are invited to our nativity play each Christmas.

We also liaise with local churches to provide information which enables our pupils and their families to attend their services.

## **Monitoring**

Collective worship is monitored both formally and informally to ensure that we are fulfilling our aims and expressing our vision. Assembly monitors complete a simple monitoring form for all whole school assemblies; this helps those organising worship to ensure they are focusing on our vision and values. A more informal evaluation is made of pupil-led worship; ways to develop our worship are discussed with the pupils and staff on a regular basis.

## **Right of Withdrawal**

We sincerely hope that all children will attend Collective Worship as it is such an intrinsic part of our school day. However, any parent has the right to request permission from the Headteacher for their child to be excused from collective worship and, in such cases, the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child.

## **Management of policy**

<b>School:</b>	This policy has been prepared by Governors and the Senior Leadership team. It will be implemented and managed by the Headteacher in liaison with staff.
<b>Governing Body:</b>	The Governing Body has delegated the oversight, review and update of this policy to its Foundation Governors Committee
<b>Review:</b>	This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the agreed cycle of review or whenever there is a need to comply with new legislation or codes of practice, new initiatives, changes in the curriculum, developments in technology or changes to the physical environment of the school.
<b>Approved:</b>	<b>Spring 2025</b>
<b>Next Review:</b>	<b>Spring 2027</b>