



Wreningham VC Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Together Everyone Achieves More

Our theologically rooted vision is

1 Corinthians 12:12, “There is one body but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body.”

We believe, with **Respect, Hope and Love**, we can grow and learn, and together can achieve great things

Approved by	
Date	
Review Date	March 2029
Person responsible	The Headteacher



This policy can be read in conjunction with all other teaching and learning school policies

Policy Statement

As a Church school, worship is an affirmation and celebration of our Christian ethos where adults and children have the opportunity to learn, worship and grow in their understanding of God and of themselves. It is therefore the 'heartbeat' of everything we do and an expression of our school's Christian vision and values.

Wrenningham VC Primary is committed to creating the ethos in which children can grow towards Christian life, learning and love. Our policies are influenced by this principle and our approach within our collective worship is driven by our belief in the Christian way of life.

The Legal Requirements

We seek to comply with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each school day take part in an act of Collective Worship.
- The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character. Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, tutor groups, classes, or other combinations.
- Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises, but all schools are able to hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
- Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school rests with the Governing Body in consultation with the headteacher. Foundation Governors have a particular responsibility for ensuring that Collective Worship is inclusive, inspirational and invitational.

Aims and Purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Jesus through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Appreciate the value of reflection and prayer
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Be still and reflect
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Celebrate the life of the school and the children in the presence of God
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Foster a sense of community

Anglican Faith and Practice

In order to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England:

- We use the Bible as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and make pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other verses of scripture. We also introduce them to a variety of well-known prayers – many of which express the central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.

- We use aspects of Anglican liturgy to create a framework for worship. We use Christian symbols as a focus for reflection and provide opportunities to discover the value of meditation and silence. We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals.
- As worship is a special part of our day, we provide a worship space which is attractive and well prepared with appropriate thought having been given to colour, space, seating, ambience and music.
- We actively seek to develop church partnerships to enhance our provision for collective worship. This includes the local Anglican church and other Christian denominations. We view our schools as part of the global church and aim to provide opportunities for pupils to appreciate the diversity of Christianity.

Rights and Responsibilities

As established by the 1944 Act and reinforced through this policy, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with requirements of the Act.

Planning

Planning for Collective Worship is led by the Headteacher and follows the cycle of the Anglican year. The planning reflects our Christian rooted vision and values. Our Collective Worship focuses on our core Christian Values of **Respect, Hope** and **Love**. Plans are enhanced through the Values for Life scheme. The planning uses the 'Gather Engage Respond and Send approach.

The school's vision and values and school Bible verse (1 Corinthians 12:12) are mapped across a two year programme which looks to revisit the values Respect, Hope and Love each year using different stories and *provocations*. (see Annex 1)

Teachers each take a collective worship during the week. Groups of children plan and share a Collective Worship twice every term.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This is usually held in the school hall. We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children this time is a period of calm and reflection. We regard it as a special time and we ask the children to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and singing.

The key elements of worship in our school are Gathering, Engaging, Responding and Sending.

Gathering

- The Collective Worship Team set up the hall ready for the children to come in
- Calming music plays as children enter the hall
- Children and adults enter quietly
- The candle is lit to signify the start of Collective Worship
- Staff or a member of the Collective Worship Team will say the welcome Prayer

We welcome one and all today

To join our family as we pray

We invite God into our hearts

With love and hope

Our new day starts

Engaging

- The focused activity will be based on a mixture of Bible stories, stories of real people, poems, songs, drama etc

Responding

- Staff will give the children an opportunity to reflect and discuss the theme, issues, dilemma etc.
- Children may discuss with a partner, or reflect on their own and share what they feel or have learnt
- A prayer relating to the story is shared
- Children sing a hymn/song

Sending

- The children may be given a challenge, quote or a thought for the day
- The School Prayer is shared
- ***Be with us in our school today***
- ***In our work and in our play***
- ***Be in our hearts, be in our minds***
- ***In all we do and all we say***
- The candle is blown out and the children leave the hall to calming music

The Headteacher or teachers usually lead collective worship. We also have regular visitors including local clergy members leading worship. Our Collective Worship is planned around our core Christian Values (Respect, Hope and Love) which lead back to our theologically rooted vision and our school motto 'Together Everyone Achieves More'.

Each term we run a Families Week, where the families of a year group (YrR-Yr5) is invited to take part in our worship. Governors are also welcome to take part in Collective Worship.

Children regularly plan and lead collective worship following the established structure.

There is opportunity for pupils to reflect further and to take an active part by posting thoughts and their prayers.

A typical week of Collective Worship includes:

- Monday - Mindfulness element
- Tuesday - Song and Worship
- Wednesday/Thursday – Value Worship
- Friday – Celebrate and Worship

Friday 's worship is an opportunity to share the children's work and to celebrate their successes. These are incorporated into the act of Collective Worship and play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school.

Resources

We use online resources such as SPCK, as well as books and the Bible to plan our Collective Worship. We have a bank of music and songs which we use for singing and when entering and leaving the hall.

Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

We recognise that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others.

Monitoring and Review

We monitor and evaluate the impact of our Collective Worship by keeping records of the planning. We have recently started surveying the adults and children more regularly to more effectively monitor the impact of our Collective Worship. Foundation governors, the Raising Standards committee attend and monitor Collective Worship.

Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and

accommodate ourselves to individual needs when appropriate. As when teachers prepare lessons, worship leaders take account of different learning styles and aim to present materials using multi-sensory approaches.

The expectation is that all children attend Collective Worship. Some children may attend worship for part of the session as they find some aspects harder to engage as a result of sensory needs – e.g. the loudness of singing or a visitor delivering worship with whom they are not familiar. In these cases, children may have a trusted adult with them to support them in accessing aspects of worship and then withdraw the children at an appropriate time.

Implementation of Policy

The Collective Worship Lead is responsible for this policy which will be reviewed by the Governing Body every three years. Its implementation is the responsibility of all those planning and leading Collective Worship.

Links to Other Policies:

- School theologically rooted Christian Vision
- Spirituality Policy
- Religious Education Policy
- PSHE Policy

Review:

This policy will be reviewed every three years.