



Policy for Collective Worship at Padiham St Leonard's CE VA Primary



Each of our children is a precious and unique individual, with God given talents and abilities, created to fulfil a special role in God's intricate plan for the world.

“For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”.’

Jeremiah 29:11

1. Fundamentals

(a) Christian emphasis

In this Church of England Voluntary Aided School, Collective worship is in conformity with the ethos statement and the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed.

The school's ethos statement is:

- Recognising its historic 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.

The school's Trust Deed states that it should be used 'as a school for the poor inhabitants of the township of Padiham and neighbourhood and this school should always be in union with the National Society'.

In alignment with the National Society, the daily act of collective worship required by law in the School shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England and the basic curriculum required by law in the school shall include religious education consistent with the faith of the Church of England. Use should be made, within the provisions of the Education acts for the time being in force, of the Parish Church, both for occasional acts of collective worship and for religious education.

(b) Collective Worship contributes to the working out of our **Ethos Statement** through our **Mission Statement** and the **aims** and **ethos** of the school, and therefore to the Christian Education we provide. It therefore is central to our mission of 'Developing hearts, minds and bodies through Christ'. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the Christian values of our school.

(c) Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use reflection, prayer and meditation in the curriculum generally and at the end of the day as well as graces before lunch.

(d) The Church of England

Forms of worship within our denomination differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship whilst remaining true to our Trust Deeds. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church.

Whatever the approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These include:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;

- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- The importance of prayer;
- The central symbols of Christianity;
- The cycle of the Church year.

(e) Pupils, teachers and families value the special dimension collective worship brings to church school life. It aims to give pupils and school staff alike the opportunity to:

- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Opportunities to be still
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ
- Affirm Christian values and attitude
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

(f) The links with local Churches and Churches worldwide.

The governors recognise the importance of the link between the school and its' mother church at St Leonard's. The school actively encourages members of St. Leonard's Church to take part in the school's acts of worship in church.

As well as its link with St Leonard's church, the school will also utilise links with other churches such as those attended by staff or pupils. Links will also be maintained with the Life Church, Burnley through the active involvement of their Youth Team.

The school will seek links with worldwide churches and Christian organisations and where appropriate representatives will be asked to lead worship, e.g. Bethany Choir.

(g) Collective Worship and assembly.

The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply.

(h) Worship in the school, while reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development of pupils.

(i) The relationship to the Diocesan policy on worship in Church schools.

The provision of collective worship conforms to Diocesan policy and includes use of Diocesan resources.

(j) The relationship to Denominational Religious Education.

Elements of the syllabus are delivered via school worship. Worship and Religious Education are closely interconnected. Throughout the school year worship will be planned to enhance elements of the RE syllabus and similarly elements of the syllabus will be used to inspire acts of worship, particularly those planned by pupils.

2. Responsibility for the policy

- (a) This policy was produced in consultation with head teacher, staff, governors and local clergy.
- (b) The head teacher, who acts, as worship co-ordinator will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the policy document. The policy will be reviewed every year.

3. Statement of broad aims

Worship should be at the very heart of daily life in a church school. In collective worship we want our whole school community to:

- **Explore** those questions important to everyone.
- **Encounter** a faith which is alive
- **Experience** the joy of celebrating God's love.

We recognise the need to prepare our pupils for life in a multi-faith society and, on some celebration days from Judaism and Islam, we deliver collective worship which celebrates Christian Values but presents opportunities to compare these to characteristics of the relevant celebration. E.g. Thinking about forgiving others at Yom Kippur or Self-control during Ramadan.

Multi-cultural Christianity is explored through exploring music, images and teachings of Christ throughout the world.

4. Organisation and Delivery

Day	Time	KS	Led by	Focus
Monday	9-9.20 am	Whole school	Headteacher	Half-termly theme
Tuesday	9-9.20 am	KS2	Assistant Headteacher (KS2 Leader)	Half-termly theme
Wednesday	9-9.20 am	EYFS/KS1	Deputy Headteacher (EYFS Leader)	Half-termly theme
Thursday	9-9.20 am	Whole school	Music Coordinator	Songs of Praise
Friday	9-9.20 am	EYFS/KS1 and KS2 on alternate weeks	Headteacher	Celebrating values and achievements

- Leadership of collective worship will remain flexible in order to welcome and accommodate visitors who may have been invited to lead acts of worship or to lead assemblies, i.e. Representatives from Life Church, Operation Christmas, Bethany Project or other charities.
- Most worship will be held in the school hall, but on occasions opportunities will be sought to worship outside or in other environments. At significant times in the church year the school will worship at St Leonard's church (Harvest, Christingle, Ash Wednesday, Mother's Day, Easter and the end of the school year).
- Though worship is not designated as curriculum time under current DfES regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school. Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of the National Curriculum and Religious Education and frequently involves teaching and learning activities such as discussion and question and answer. Pupils may be read to or instructed or they may be asked to listen to readings or to think about and respond to a stimulus such as a work of art.

(d) Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt. Frequently pupils are involved in leading worship or performing through dance, drama or music.

When any such activities occur, they may be counted as teaching time even though they take place within worship. It is appropriate that, in a Church school, worship and learning is seen as a seamless whole even though, for the purposes of recording teaching time, we distinguish between the two.

(d) Parents, family and governors are invited to join in acts of worship on regular occasions, including in school or church. Parents and community members are kept informed through newsletters, letters or personal invites.

e) A worshipful atmosphere will be created and sustained through the use of music, images, silence, appropriate movement into and out of worship and the use of Christian symbols. Acts of worship should include each of the following elements:

- Gathering - The room should be ready for worship and music or a powerpoint will often be used to focus the children as they enter the hall. The community will usually be welcomed using the words of the school liturgy. (N.B. - There are different liturgies for the season of Advent and Lent).
- Engaging - A range of different strategies will be used to share God's message, e.g. drama, interactive story-telling, use of puppets or powerpoints using artwork or music. The material used will be predominantly biblical or Christian. On occasion where material includes reference to other faiths, e.g. Passover, Sukkot or Ramadan, children should be encouraged to consider the similarities and differences to Christian beliefs.
- Responding - At this point the community should be encouraged to respond to the message. This may be through prayer, reflection time or singing. On occasions this may include an activity for the children to undertake or an object to take away to remind them of the experience.
- Sending - The school liturgy is usually used as a final blessing/dismissal and then pupils leave either in silence or singing a related song.

(f) Worship will be distinguished from notices and other 'assembly' activities as the school liturgy will be used to symbol the end of worship before notices are given.

(g) Advice is given at the end of this document about the arrangements for any withdrawals.

5 Content and Approaches

(a) The themes each year will be decided through discussion between the headteacher and the clergy. During 2025-6 the themes will be based on the school FRUITS:

- Faith
- Relationships
- Uniqueness
- Intellect
- Treat Yourself and Others with Respect and Dignity
- Salvation

(b) The content of each act of worship will be based on either:

- The half termly theme
- The observance of the Church Year, e.g. Harvest, Advent, Epiphany etc.
- The celebration of curriculum work,
- Acts of worship which stand alone.

(c) A range of approaches are used, e.g. adult and pupil led, story-telling, music and movement, drama (rehearsed and improvised), visual aids, role play etc.

6. Resources

a) The budget for RE also has provision for worship resources and the RE co-ordinator should liaise with the worship co-ordinator about how this allocation will be spent.

b) There are a range of resources for worship available. These are stored in either the RE cupboards at the end of the link corridor, the headteacher's office or the worship box in the staffroom. There are a range of different bibles including The Lion Storyteller bible, the Jesus Storybook bible, Laugh and Learn Bible for Kids, Laugh and Grow Bible for Kids and the Usborne Children's Bible

7. Consultation, Management, Recording and Review

- (a) The Collective Worship co-ordinator manages Collective Worship in conjunction with the music co-ordinator and RE co-ordinator.
- (b) Planning and co-ordinating of worship is a collaborative approach: e.g. the contributions of the clergy, staff and pupils are all considered in making worship relevant and vibrant.
- (c) Provision for staff development for the co-ordinator and for other staff, and any governor training for Collective Worship is available through the Diocese.
- (d) Records of Acts of Worship are kept and future practice is adapted using the evaluations of impact.
- (e) Monitoring and evaluating the quality and content of Collective Worship is carried out by the Headteacher, RE co-ordinator, Governors and the Clergy.
- (f) Collective Worship is reported in the Headteacher Report to Governors.
- (g) This policy is reviewed annually.

The legal requirements for Collective Worship in our school

(a) Legal Basis

Collective Worship in Church Schools is governed by both the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts as well as by the Trust Deed of the School. The Collective Worship provided by the school must be in accordance with the Trust Deed, or in accordance with the tradition before we became an Aided school.

(b) Daily Worship

Daily Collective Worship has to be provided for every pupil. This worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, separate Key Stage groups or in classes, but not faith groups. Worship may take place at any point in the school day.

(c) Worship in Church

Worship should normally take place on the school premises, but may take place in Church on special occasions.

(d) Parental rights of withdrawal

The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

(e) Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Head Teacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.