

St. Cuthbert's Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

This policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

This policy will be reviewed annually, unless there are significant legislative changes in the interim period.

Policy reviewed: January 2020

Signed 

Position: Head teacher

Next review- November 2025

As a Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) school, Christian Values are at the heart of our school, allowing pupils to worship, grow and develop in a secure, happy and creative environment. We place great emphasis on learning to live the Christian ethos.



Our Vision

Doing all the good we can, through faith, love and excellence.

Micah 6:8 "This is what the Lord requires of you: to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God."

We want St Cuthbert's to be a school where:

Our Ethos

- everyone flourishes through the guidance of our Christian values.
- teaching and learning is creative, engaging and motivational.
- relationships are positive and serve to support others through **compassion** and **kindness**.

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." John 10, V10

Our Expectations

- we show **courage** to be the best that we can be.
- the children make excellent progress, fostering a love of learning.
- every child has an **equal** chance to fulfil their full potential.

"All human kind is made in the image of God." Genesis 1, V26-27

Individuality

- we grow and flourish as individuals; through **endurance** we can achieve.
- the value and worth of each individual is celebrated and everyone feels included.
- the children develop a spirit of **curiosity** and a willingness to rise to a challenge through a broad, enriched curriculum.

"All people are called to transform the world" Genesis 1 V26-31, Micah 6 V8

Working Together

- the children are able to **trust** show **respect** and **friendship** to others.
- the community enables our pupils and school to grow in a happy, safe, healthy and spiritual environment.
- we foster links and contribute to the educational community through effective communication.

"Every person is an individual and also part of a community." 1 Cor. 12 V12-27

*This is a vision that is inclusive to all as we are reminded in the words of Luke 18:16:
"But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."
For we are all equal in the eyes of God.*

Compassion

"Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

Colossians 3:12



Kindness

"Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you."

Ephesians 4:32



Equal

"You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

Mark 12:31



Potential

"Behold they are one people and they have all one language and this is only the beginning of what they will do."

Genesis 11:6



Courage

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9



Trust

"My God is my strength in whom I trust."

Psalms 12



Friendship

"Encourage one another and build each other up."
1 Thessalonians 5:11



Respect

"For God gave us a spirit not of fear
but of power and love and self-
control."
Joshua 1:9



Endurance

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens"
Joshua 9



This policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's Vision. It supports and reinforces the aims of St Cuthbert's C of E Primary School, valuing all children equally.

The ethos of the school encompassing all that we stand for is reflected in and expressed through Collective Worship. It derives from the Christian tradition and seeks to activate our beliefs and values.

Collective Worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school. It is an oasis in the school day when children meet together with members of staff in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is regarded as "quality" time and represents something special or separate from ordinary school routine.

"Praise, prayer, silence, a sense of community, common ideal, the power of the spoken word, ritual and an awareness of important experiences all contribute to worship".

Leicestershire Diocese Guidelines for Collective Worship

Definitions

Worship – can be defined as paying homage to (referring) that which is "worth" ("Worship"). Religious Worship is the acknowledgement of "worth" which is attributable to a supreme being. Worth can also be registered in other people and in values and attributes.

Collective Worship - is a gathering of a "collection" of the school community providing opportunity for the whole school community to worship God, explore ideas and issues through participation, response and reflection.

Legal Requirements

The Trust Deed of the school is unavailable but the legal requirement in Anglican schools is for worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and will therefore be wholly Christian in character.

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society.

All maintained schools – including church schools – must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils.

"Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs, to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered, and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes". (DFE – Circular 1/94)

Intent

- Affirm the Christian faith and the Christian understanding of God expressed as Trinity

- Introduce pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement and prayer.
- Create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere in Collective Worship, conducive to worship, including the manner of entry and exit.
- Encourage in children a thoughtful and reflective attitude.
- Help pupils experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness.
- Enable pupils to use silence for reflection and contemplation.
- Raise pupils to learn about and consider in depth Christian teaching, Christian festivals and Biblical material.
- Help pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to those of others.
- Enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Guide children towards the spiritual and religious options open to them.
- Help children distinguish between right and wrong.
- Affirm pupils' personal worth and responsibility.
- Celebrate individual and collective achievements.
- Develop a sense of community within the school.
- Celebrate religious festivals and special occasions with specified worship.

Implementation

Daily acts of Collective Worship take place in school. Each week the worship follows a planned Christian Value which teachers and visitors are encouraged to follow when appropriate. The themes are planned in advance. The structure of Collective Worship includes music, a story or talk, a reading from the Bible, a period of reflection, a song of praise, and a prayer (including The Lord's Prayer).

Day	Time	Leading
Monday	9:15am	Whole school- Headteacher
Tuesday	9:15am	Whole school – Deputy Headteacher
Wednesday	9:15am	Whole school –Headteacher
Thursday	9:15am	Key stage assembly
Friday	9:15am	Awards/achievements with Parents and family members

The school worships in the Church for special celebrations and end of term services. Visitors and outside speakers are invited to lead our worship on a regular basis.

The following principals guide our approach to Collective Worship at St Cuthbert's C of E Primary School.

- Collective Worship should be interactive and occasionally organised and delivered by the pupils
- Collective Worship should have a sense of occasion.
- Collective Worship should provide experiences within which pupils' spiritual development may flourish.
- Collective Worship should be educational and should contribute to the Religious Education of all pupils.
- We should provide a varied pattern of worship to broaden pupils' experience of its different forms.

- Collective Worship should recognise that the school includes children from different religious and non-religious backgrounds.

Elements of Worship

“There are times when worship will be quiet, contemplative and serene and others when laughter, music and dance will be the appropriate form of expression”.

Atmosphere is all important in creating the right foundation for Collective Worship. Quiet, orderly behaviour and respectful attitudes on entering, leaving and throughout the hall are expected. Staff enhance the atmosphere by their presence and participation.

Music is played at the beginning and end of Collective Worship. Pieces are appropriate to the value.

Stories and talks are carefully chosen to fulfil the objectives of Collective Worship. Stories of religious or secular nature may be used whilst personal anecdote from pupils, teachers and visitors is effective in expressing that which is important in our lives. Particular emphasis is laid upon helping children to understand themselves better, to develop empathy, to face up to moral issues and embed Christian Values.

Songs are chosen from a wide variety of traditional and modern hymns and choruses. One or two songs are used at each Collective Worship, relative to the value and there is sometimes percussion accompaniment provided by the children. Some are learned by heart and actions are incorporated, whilst others are displayed on the screen. Hymns and songs create the opportunity for children to express thoughts and feelings that are difficult to put into words, and they provide a real source of pleasure.

Prayer and reflection are most personal part of an act of worship. Participation in prayer can never be imposed but we stress the need for stillness, reflection and respect for others. Silence, written prayers, impromptu prayers, the Lord’s Prayer and children’s prayers may be used. Reflection and thinking time are given some direction by the leader in order to concentrate pupil’s response.

Scripture sentences may be quoted from the Bible and where appropriate from sacred books and writings of other world faiths. Longer passages may be used as readings. 7

Presentation sets the tone within the act of worship. In keeping with the reverent atmosphere, use is also, made of visual aids, artefacts, drama, demonstration and clips.

Planning

Collective worship is themed by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator, based on the Christian Values. These are on a three year rolling programme and amended as required. This plan also reflects major religious festivals.

Worship Workshop

Each week Reverend Kim leads a lunchtime club called ‘Worship Workshop’ for older children. Worship Workshop begins with children lighting the candle and then passing round a holding cross to say a prayer about something that is important to them at that time. A

bible story is then discussed whilst the children complete a craft activity linked to the story. The session always ends, sharing food together.

Classrooms/ Open areas

Reflection/ Prayer corners are in place in every classroom and Key stage 1 and 2 open areas. Each area includes images, prayers, quotes or readings that encourage the children to interact with the display in some way.

Included in the area are three boxes:

- **Worries box-** Children are encouraged to write down their worries and concerns if they feel they cannot speak directly to an adult
- **Nomination box-** Children nominate others to light the candle at the beginning of Collective Worship. Children write why they have nominated that person.
- **Prayer box-** Children can compose prayer that can be used in class. Every Monday each class brings a prayer to whole school collective worship. These are used throughout the week by the adult leading the worship in addition to prayers linked to the week's theme.

Resources

- Staff, pupils, visiting speakers
- Candle and cross
- Class candles
- Coloured cloth (to depict the Church calendar)
- Nominations to light the candle
- Seasonal prayer including children's own prayers
- Selection of religious artefacts
- Selection of Collective Worship topic books for teachers
- Selection of Collective Worship song books
- Worship Workshop
- Laptop and screen
- Music CDs classical, folk, ethnic
- Piano, instruments

Impact

- As a result of daily worship, children are able to articulate the impact of how God is working in their lives and often talk about living out our school values 'living our lives as God want us to'
- Due to the environment, parents and visitors say that there is a calm feeling and a real sense of reverence when they walk around the school which serves to constantly remind us that we are a church school
- Pupils and parents say that the school community enjoys worship
- Children have a good understanding of the different festivals in the Church calendar.
- Due to the varied nature of worship, all members of the community are encouraged to develop spirituality
- Our community recognises St. Cuthbert's as a compassionate and giving school.
- Because worship is made accessible to all, pupils are able to confidently talk about the teachings of Jesus and bible stories

- Pupils and adults talk with enthusiasm about the value of worship and are able to articulate how this influences their lives.
- Children and staff enjoy feeling a part of the worship and in particular involved in the delivery

Equal Opportunities

All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. Parents are aware of their right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship. Such pupils are supervised in another part of the school.

Multi Faith

A variety of multicultural material is available in school. Stories are shared and festivals celebrated in school in recognition of the fact that we are living in a multi-faith society. Tolerance, understanding and dialogue with people of all faiths are encouraged.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy is the responsibility of all teaching staff and is monitored by the co-ordinator for collective worship. Evaluation is carried out through on-going discussion, completion of the diocesan Together in Worship sheet, interviews with pupils and feedback to individual teachers. The responsible governor will formally evaluate collective worship as part of the schools rolling programme and feedback will be given to all staff and governors.

Review

The Governing Body will review this policy formally three years from the day of its adoption. Informal review may be necessary in the interim and should take place as and when required.

This policy has been formally adopted by the Governing Body of St Cuthbert's C of E Primary School.