



# Collective Worship

## September 2023

Reviewed by	Approved by	Date Approved	Next Review Date
Headteacher / FGB	Headteacher / FGB		

Signed:

Chair of Governors

Signed:

Headteachers

## Vision

We are a caring Church school rooted in the heart of our community. Through living out our Christian values we enable our children to develop and experience "life in all its fullness." John 10:10

### Christian values

Perseverance

Aspiration

Respect

Responsibility

Kindness

Courage

Our vision, values and ethos are the basis for the development of the whole child academically, emotionally, morally, socially and spiritually. Everything we do is based on the teachings of Jesus. We encourage children to consider how we model our values through our actions and thereby to develop the attributes that enable them to develop as reflective learners and citizens who will make a successful contribution to society.

The distinctive Christian vision and ethos of our school can be seen through all that we do in school - through our daily Collective Worship, through the opportunities that children have to explore the wonders of the world around them, and through the way that we help our children to develop as individuals who respect each other, themselves and all other members of the school community.

### **Collective worship is at the heart of school life every day at Albourne CE Primary School.**

Our collective worship links to and reflects our school vision and values.

We will ensure that children and adults experience worship that is meaningful and deep, so that it provides a strong foundation for ongoing spiritual growth and development.

The school community's experience of faith will come through opportunities to participate in a range of styles of Christian worship during the school year. This is in line with the guidance from Chichester Diocese.

## Collective Worship and the Law

The school fulfils all legal requirements in relation to collective worship, i.e.:

- In England it is a legal requirement for all maintained schools to hold a daily act of collective worship which is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. However, in Church of England schools all acts of collective worship should be conducted in accordance with the trust deed and/or with the tenets and practices of the Church of England and should be Christian in character. The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) 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 will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the trust deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government, and will be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.

## Inclusive Invitational Inspiring

(Reference- Church of England guidance document 18.5.21)

**Inclusive:**

- Children, their families and other adults will encounter worship that is fully accessible and inclusive of everyone.
- Collective worship will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including children.
- Children and adults will bring their own experience to worship
- We will ensure that children are involved in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship. Our children will have opportunities to be proactive in contributing to these areas through the Worship Group, class led assemblies and opportunities for evaluation by all year groups during the school year.

**Invitational:**

*There should be no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship should provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity.*

**Our Collective Worship:**

- is warming and welcoming
- Is peaceful and calm, yet vibrant and alive
- enables all to express and share thoughts and feelings – or to choose not to, yet still be engaged through personal reflection
- promotes and reinforces a secure and comfortable knowledge that each person is valued and respected in our school community
- invites children and adults to pray only if they wish to do so and in their own way. Prayer is always accompanied by the option to reflect.

**Inspiring:**

Our Collective Worship is inspirational. This is achieved by:

- enabling the school community to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition
- sharing the central teachings of the Christian faith in order for the school community to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- seeking to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'no faith', so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship
- using celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth
- providing opportunities for the whole school community to address God directly through Jesus, reflecting upon his character and giving Him praise
- using a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate and lead worship
  - encouraging all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework by learning more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ through worship
  - raising awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith
  - exploring the school's Christian vision and values and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God
  - encouraging respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally. Inspire participants to become courageous advocates of causes.

- seeking to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect and reverence
- developing a sense of community within the school and locality (e.g. local church/es) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions
- providing an opportunity to bring personal needs and those of others before God in prayer
- helping children discover their place in the world.

### **Collective Worship and the Anglican tradition**

Our acts of collective worship will be both inclusive and distinctive, providing opportunities to reflect the patterns of Christian worship and the traditions of the Church of England including:

- observing the major Christian Festivals and the cycles of the Anglican year - Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost and Harvest, and acknowledging a number of major Saints' Days
- using the Bible as a source of inspiration and learning
- reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in worship
- identifying a collection of prayers which express the essential beliefs of Christians throughout the ages
- drawing on the riches of Anglican liturgy and other seasonal material in worship
- teaching about the Eucharist and its significance to Christians
- learning traditional responses and prayers, hymns, and psalms which might create a framework for worship within the school
- recognising that the Church of England has a strong commitment to ecumenism which may be expressed when members of other Churches are invited to lead worship
- sharing in a commitment to dialogue with other faiths, including recognizing their major festivals.

### **The shape of Collective Worship**

Collective worship will provide opportunities to gather, engage and respond in a variety of ways, grounded in distinctively Christian teaching.

The framework of gathering, engaging, responding and sending is used to plan collective worship. These principles are encouraged when different year groups join for collective worship and class worship.

#### **Gathering**

A distinctive atmosphere will be created, and a clearly visible focus point.

Our aim is that there will be a feeling of expectation as people gather for worship. As we gather together, we greet each other. We all come to play a part in this our community during collective worship. We are preparing to meet with God; or to be reflective, and to be respectful of others as they engage with God.

#### **Engaging**

This may be the main part in an act of worship as we encourage children and adults to engage with the Bible, Christian teaching, and most importantly, with God. Engagement will be with the big things and the little things in life as we encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible—and listen for God's message to us.

#### **Responding**

For every child and adult present all should understand that this is time set aside for deep thought and reflection, and for everyone to respond in an appropriate way, that they feel comfortable with. We respond to what we have heard and seen. We respond together and as individuals. We are given the opportunity to worship God and/ or to reflect.

### **Sending**

The ending of each act of worship will be full of purpose. With everyone sent out to be different and to 'do' differently. We are sent out, to love and help/ 'serve' one another and to make a difference in the world. We are all dismissed with God's blessing.

### **Prayers, Worship songs and Music**

All acts of Collective Worship in school will include an opportunity for prayer and/or quiet reflection. Through prayer children have the opportunity to develop a sense of trust and a recognition that Christians put their lives, and those for whom they pray in the hands of God. Teaching about prayer will include:

- knowing that prayer can take the form of worship, repentance, petition, intercession and thanksgiving
- understanding that prayer can take place anywhere and at any time, including grace before lunch and a special prayer at the end of the school day
- being aware that different people pray in different ways
- learning a variety of prayers in the Anglican tradition including The Lord's Prayer, the prayer of St. Richard of Chichester and prayers attributed to St. Francis of Assisi and St. Ignatius Loyola
- opportunities for children to write their own prayers
- opportunities for extemporaneous prayer by children and staff
- prayers using music and repetition in songs, such as Taizé songs
- the use of a focal point, the lighting of a candle and artefacts on the Worship table, to enhance opportunities for prayer, silence and listening.

Hymns and worship songs are an integral part of our collective worship. When selecting songs the following are considered:

- singing during worship allows children to become active in the worship rather than passive observers
- the need for a wide repertoire of hymns and songs
- the music should be selected to match the age range of the children
- special consideration is given to the use of choruses and hymns with refrains for Key Stage 1 children and non-readers
- regular practice and learning of songs is built into the school timetable to prepare for quality worship
- that an understanding and enjoyment of the music makes worship more meaningful and special for everyone.

A weekly hymn/song practice takes place with time set aside to include a brief reading, reflection and/or prayer.

Music to be listened to before / during collective worship is considered for its appropriateness. It will include a variety from all traditions and will enhance the atmosphere of the worship.

**Spiritual Development** (also see Church of England Spiritual Development: Interpretations of spiritual development in the classroom October 2019)

Opportunities for spiritual development will be provided **across the whole curriculum**. Collective worship will provide key opportunities for spiritual growth.

We see spirituality, and spiritual development as inclusive of everyone, regardless of whether a child or adult practices a particular faith or none.

We approach collective worship, with an educational approach to spiritual development that includes:

- the recognition that there is something more to life than the ordinary
- acknowledging the capacity of pupils to reach beyond the everyday experiences of life
- the development of the inner life of each pupil
- a search for meaning
- a sense of values
- a sense of the transcendent
- searching for answers to some of life's ultimate questions

Taking account of the age, aptitude and family background of the pupils, collective worship can contribute to spiritual development by:

- giving time for stillness and reflection, and the exploration of inner thoughts and feelings
- providing opportunities for pupils to share what is important to them
- celebrating what is worthwhile in pupils' own lives and in the context of the school and the wider community
- creating an atmosphere conducive to a sense of peace and tranquility
- providing opportunities for pupils to use all their senses
- fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect
- being pupil centered and starting from pupils' experiences
- providing opportunities to develop the imagination
- using a range of activities such as dancing, drama, singing
- being a separate and distinct part of the school day.

## **Planning for School Worship**

### **Long Term Planning**

This will be done in conjunction with a working party of school staff, children, the parish priest (when one is appointed) and at least one foundation Governor. This group will:

- provide a programme of worship themes which ensure a balanced and informed approach
- identify the special occasions or services the school wishes to mark
- make use of the church calendar
- identify the groupings for worship
- identify the leaders of the worship.

### **Medium Term Planning**

Included in these plans will be:

- a breakdown of termly intentions and half termly focus values
- identification of potential visitors.

### **Short Term Plans**

These plans will be developed by the individuals responsible for the acts of worship. A record of content will be kept.

## **Responsibility for Daily Act of Worship**

The governing body will ensure that all pupils each day engage meaningfully in an act of real Christian worship, which is in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church of England. The governors delegate the arrangements for the daily act of collective worship to the headteacher. The governing body ensures that collective worship is appropriate and of a high standard by regularly monitoring the collective worship at the school.

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that legal requirements are met. Foundation governors have responsibility for ensuring that the character foundation of the school is reflected in worship.

Parents are made aware at Open Mornings/ before they accept a place for their child/ children at the school that as a church school collective worship will be based upon the foundations and principles of the Church of England.

Members of staff will uphold the Christian vision, values, ethos and foundation of the school and this is made clear to them before accepting a job at the school.

The school worship will also be inspected regularly through the **Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)** under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

### **Rights of Parents and Carers**

A parent has the right to withdraw their child/ children from collective worship (Ref. 1944 Education Act). Normally a parent/s would meet with the Headteacher to discuss this and what alternative provision the school could provide. The parent would then confirm their decision in writing.

### **References:**

- Guidance from the Chichester Diocese: Collective Worship Sept 2020
- Collective Worship in Church of England Schools Inclusive Invitational Inspiring Guidance Document May 2021
- Church of England Spiritual Development: Interpretations of spiritual development in the classroom October 2019