

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

October 2023

Our Vision:



Reach Up

We reach up to God to show us the way

Reach In

We reach inside for the courage and wisdom of the Holy Spirit, to help us reach God's goal for us

Reach Out

We reach out to everyone with the kindness and compassion of Jesus

'I try as hard as I can to reach the goal that is before me.' Philippians 3:14

This policy has been drawn up by the governors of the school in consultation with the headteacher, collective worship coordinator, incumbent and other members of staff.

Calder Vale St. John's CE Primary School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School. In addition to the national legal requirement that there should be daily worship, as a church school, we have a Trust Deed which states that worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England' and in accordance with the School Ethos Statement in the statutory Instrument of Government. Collective Worship takes place every day for all pupils.

Rationale

For our church school, Collective Worship is a highly valued part of the school day. It is the time when we gather together to affirm what is important to us, to our school and to our world. Here, our school affirms the claims of Christianity underlying our values, and representing the faith stance of some teachers and children. It provides an opportunity for pupils to worship God, whilst seeking to be relevant to, and inclusive, of all. It reflects our Anglican tradition as well as exploring with pupils and staff a variety of ways in which Christians worship God.

In acts of Collective Worship in our school, it is recognised that in our school community, some members will come from families with a commitment to the Christian faith, others from families with a commitment to another faith and yet others will have no particular commitment to any tradition.

Therefore, the content and language of collective worship allows for different levels of response. It invites rather than coerces.

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 prayer in the curriculum generally and at the end of afternoon sessions as well as graces before lunch

Key Beliefs

Forms of worship within our denomination(s) differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to 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

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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

At Calder Vale St. John's CE Primary School Collective Worship offers a space to all:

Spiritual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to think about God - to make a response to God - to explore a relationship with God - to enjoy being in the presence of God - to contemplate the awesomeness of God - to offer adoration, praise and thanksgiving to God - to listen to God - to get a sense of things unseen - to explore personal belief - to feel a sense of belonging to a group that shares and celebrates together, as well as being thoughtful or sad together - to experience a feeling of connectedness to others in the world and a sense of responsibility towards them - to reflect upon ourselves and our lives as seen as part of a bigger picture - to wonder - to gain inspiration - to receive a challenge to live differently - to rejoice in being unique and precious
Educational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to learn about different ways of worshipping and about imagery and symbolism - to learn about the faith of the local church community - to participate in marking important features of the church calendar to explore the Christian values of the school - to use stillness and quietness - to have a quiet moment in a busy day - to celebrate gifts, talents and achievements - to consider spiritual questions raised in the rest of the curriculum

In satisfying these aims the following principles are also observed:

Inclusive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - whatever their age, aptitude or background - where the integrity of each is respected - enabling children to explore and evaluate their beliefs - sharing worship from time to time with parents, governors and members of the local community
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The organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place daily in our school hall and our classrooms. Worship is an essential part of school life and due consideration is given to this within the school

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timetable. In our school, worship and learning are seen as a seamless whole even though, for the purposes of recording teaching time, we distinguish between the two.

There is an open invitation for governors to attend worship.

Our church and diocesan links are very important to us. We work closely with our local church St. John's. We worship regularly at church, particularly at important times during the Christian calendar when school leads worship. Church members support and encourage and enrich our worship by working together with our children's Worship Team to plan and deliver acts of Worship in church during the school week on a half termly basis.

We also have strong links with the Northern Inter Schools Christian Union and their School Worker delivers Worship for us face to face on a termly basis – we also use NISCU's Primary Assembly Videos on a weekly basis. The local Open the Book team (formed of members of a variety of local churches) also deliver worship for us on a half termly basis.

Whenever possible children will not be withdrawn for extra tuition, music lessons etc. because of the importance placed on the worshipping life of the school. If, for example, the peripatetic music teachers cannot teach at any other time, then pupils are withdrawn for the minimum amount of time. On occasions, visitors are invited in by the Headteacher to lead worship. All staff will share in these acts of worship.

It follows the pattern here:

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Time	1pm	1pm	10.45am	3pm	3pm
Group	Whole school	Whole school	Whole school	Whole school	Whole school
Style	Praise worship introducing our focus for the week	Praise worship building on our focus for the week	iSing POP Collective Worship	Praise worship building on our focus for the week	Celebration Worship
Venue	The Hall	The Hall	The Hall	The Hall	The Hall
Leader	Rev. Michael Hutchinson	Mrs. Cole/Mrs. Tomlinson	Mrs. Cole/Mrs. Tomlinson	Headteacher	Mrs. Cole

The planning of Collective Worship

Each half term, there is a theme for Collective worship based on different Christian Values which build character and inform attitudes and behaviour consistent with the teaching of Jesus Christ. Class teachers leading worship, are supported with ideas and resources to enable them to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough, to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will

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have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. On occasions it is recognised that those leading worship may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

All those leading collective worships are asked to plan their act of worship in as much detail as they would any other learning activity.

The content of Collective Worship

As we are an Anglican school we reflect aspects of Anglican worship in the following ways):

- We use the Bible as a source of Christian teaching, and give it a prominent place in our worship – there is a Bible text linked to each week of worship
- We follow the cycle of the Anglican year; Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost and some saints' days.
- We use liturgical colours as part of our worship area
- We use Christian symbols and artefacts, exploring their meaning for Christians
- We use a range of prayers and hymns from different Christian traditions
- Our worship follows a liturgical pattern:
 - **Gathering**
 - We use music to set the mood for our worship or to encourage those present to reflect on the theme as we gather
 - We always light three candles, to symbolize the Trinity, at the start of worship, as we say our welcome words
 - We always sing at the start of a worship

Engaging & Responding

- Within our collective worship we provide a wide variety of stimuli to help pupils to reflect upon and respond to the central theme, these include - story, music, PowerPoint slides, video clips, poetry, drama, puppets, games, dance, questioning
- We share a Bible verse focused on our theme
- We include a quiet time for reflection following the input from the Worship leader
- We say a prayer about what we have talked about at the end of our worship

Sending

- We leave worship with something to think about
- We use sentences and responses (e.g. The Lord be with you ... and also with you) to signal the end of our worship time

Children are actively encouraged to participate in planning and leading worship. There is a worship group made up of junior children. This group seek to enhance and enrich worship in school through working together with representatives from St. John's church to plan and lead acts of worship in church. Our Worship Team plan the four aspects of our liturgical pattern for Celebration Worship each week, leading prayers, based on suggestions they have collected from our school family.

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The management of Collective Worship

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met but the head teacher has the statutory accountability for ensuring that collective worship takes place. The nominated person with specific responsibility for collective worship in our school is the Headteacher.

Arrangements for recording, monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship

A record of the theme and content of the collective worship is kept by the Headteacher as part of our collective worship planning. Evaluation takes place in the following ways:

- Each class has a 'Reflections on Worship Book' which is completed by a different child/group of children after each act of worship/at the end of the week
- Governors ensure that collective worship is reviewed on a regular basis

Parental Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. If a parent wishes to consider this option, the Head Teacher should be approached.

Review date for the policy

October 2025