



Fawkham CE Primary School

Policy for Collective Worship

June 2020

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Collective Worship Policy

*The work of our school, underpinned by our core Christian Values:
Respect, Caring, Friendship, Honesty, Forgiveness and Responsibility*

DREAM, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE AT FAWKHAM CEP SCHOOL

We value diversity and promote equal opportunities for all.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

John Chapter 10 Verse 10 – I came that you may have life; life in all its fullness

Our Fawkham Family ensures that we, as an inspirational community following the light of God, strive for excellence to achieve our full potential. Our nurturing and enthusiastic environment allows all learners to feel empowered and celebrate uniqueness through the guidance and love of God, expressed through our core Christian values.

In child speak:-

Our Fawkham Family helps everyone to:-

- Follow in the footsteps of God, with God's help and guidance,
- Know that we are all special and different and that God has created us in this unique way
- Feel safe, happy and confident in our loving caring Christian family
- Work together through the embodiment of our Core Christian Values
- Try our best, with the light of Jesus inspiring us to be the best that we can be ensuring that we flourish

Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of care, respect, responsibility, friendship, honesty and forgiveness and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- 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 through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges

- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

In line with the requirements of the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that collective worship:

- Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship

Implementation

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors – The Family Trust, in consultation with the collective worship leader. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class. Our school plans systematically and cohesively using *Rochester Diocesan Collective Worship Planning* which is adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and this enables continuity. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies: *see our school website in 'Key Information' and 'Policies'*. This should include discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

We meet every day as a whole school community:-

Day	Time	Focus	Leader
Monday	9.05 – 9.30	1 st worship from plan	Two Teachers
Tuesday	9.05 – 9.30	2 nd worship from plan	Reverend Adele Barker
Wednesday	9.05 – 9.30	3 rd worship from plan	Two Teachers
Thursday	9.05 – 9.30	4 th worship from plan	Worship Leader/Headteacher
Friday	9.05 – 9.30	Round up of the week's worship	Deputy Headteacher and Leading Lights

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including *eg: music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT.*

Our worship consists of 4 elements:

- *Gather* – we welcome the community, for example, (*with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle*)
- *Engage* – we share, for example, (*a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message*)
- *Respond* – pupils, for example, (*discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing*)
- *Send* – we share, for example, (*the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with liturgy, final prayer, music and the blowing out of our special candle*)

Expectations of pupils:

Pupils regularly plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis through the Leading Lights Team. They work with the Deputy Headteacher during a club to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers. In addition all child led leadership teams lead worship at least twice a year with the support of their team adult leader – Reading Ambassadors, Eco-Team, E-Safety Ambassadors and Play Leaders.

Collective worship and parents:

Parents are invited to our church services at Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and Leaver's and share in our acts of worship. A significant number of parents also attend our bi-termly Family Worship in school.

Fawkham emphasises the importance of its collective worship programme in developing our school's ethos and values and in providing a range of opportunities for children/young people to consider important issues for life and living.

Collective worship and staff:

Teachers and teaching assistants attend collective worship daily. Staff organise and lead daily worship on a rota basis. This expectation is explained to all prospective staff at interview. However, if an individual feels their own beliefs might be compromised by our programme of collective worship they can discuss this with the Headteacher, since they do have the legal right not to attend collective worship 'on grounds of conscience'. There has never been any member of staff that withdraws.

Church Services at St Mary's, Fawkham

As a Church of England (Controlled) School we value the link that we have with the local church and therefore during the year the school has five church services. These are :-

- Harvest Festival: September/October
- Christmas Carol Service: December
- Easter Service: March/April
- Pentecost: May
- Leavers' Service: July

Developing Worship

The school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of collect worship. The collective worship leader attends regular professional development with Rochester Diocese and accesses a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.

Self-assessment and Inspection

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our suggestion boxes and questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with all of our stakeholders during various meetings including staff meeting and full governing body meetings and play and integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Rochester (SIAMS).

Parental Withdrawal

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

This policy will be reviewed regularly and updates given to Governors, in line with any new information and guidance that becomes available.

Written by: Miss Mandy Bridges (Headteacher and Worship Leader)

To be reviewed: June 2022

Signed..... Date.....
(Chair of Governors)

Signed..... Date.....
(Headteacher)