



Elton Church of England Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

'All members of the school community place great value on collective worship and can articulate its place in their school life and what it means to them personally. Themes raise aspirations, inspire a high level of spiritual and moral reflection and challenge learners to take responsibility for their own conduct and charitable social actions expressed in Christian terms. Collective Worship is inspirational and inclusive. It engages all learners and its impact can be clearly discerned in all parts of the school's community life.'

SIAMS Evaluation Schedule

Statutory Regulations

The daily act of collective worship is an entitlement for all pupils. It is of a Christian nature, consistent with the school Trust Deed and the faith and practice of the Church of England. Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship on religious grounds but must send written notification of this to the head teacher. The school will provide adequate supervision for pupils withdrawn from collective worship.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective worship plays a central role in the life of our school and is valued by the whole school community. It is a special time within each day when the whole school comes together to share experiences which deepen the inner senses and engender feelings of self-worth and uniqueness. Pupils are given the opportunity to feel a sense of belonging; explore the core values of Koinonia, Trust, Friendship, Endurance, Justice, and Compassion and develop their relationship with God. It is a celebration and a time for reflecting on things that have worth and meaning to the community. Furthermore collective worship provides an opportunity to nurture the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils.

Aims:

- Provide an opportunity for children to reflect upon God and to give Him honour.
- Help children discover their place in the world.
- Highlight and nurture spirituality through experiencing worship.
- Provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship forms, including symbols and imagery.
- Celebrate Christian festivals.
- Heighten awareness of the ultimate questions / realities of life and to provide the opportunity to reflect upon these in the search for meaning.
- Enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God, and to the community, and to respect the integrity of all individuals as a child of God
- Enable pupils to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer.
- Celebrate gifts, talents and achievements.
- Establish, explore, and reinforce the common Christian values of the school community
- Foster a feeling of community and belonging in the school through a sharing of experiences and feelings.
- Develop personal relationships and to encourage social development.
- Foster good relations with people from the local and wider community, particularly the local church.
- Encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues.
- Foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy.
- Provide an opportunity to bring before God in prayer personal needs and those of others.
- Share with participants some of the central teachings of the Christian faith at an appropriate level, and thereby give them the encouragement to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework.

Organisation

Collective worship takes place in the school hall every day at 10.15am. Occasionally collective worship takes place in classrooms. This chart represents a typical week of collective worship:

Day	Time	Description	Leader
Monday	10.15am	Whole School Theme	Head Teacher
Tuesday	10.15am	Whole School Theme	Class Teachers
Wednesday	10.15am	Whole School Theme	Visitors from the church Pupils
Thursday	10.15am	Key Stage Assembly House Team Assembly	Class Teachers
Friday	10.15 am 2.50pm	Whole School Theme Celebration Assembly	Deputy Head teacher Head/Deputy Head teacher

The head teacher prepares and distributes a collective worship timetable to all staff at the start of each term detailing what the theme is for each week and who is leading each act of worship. The themes are planned to support the core values and reflect the themes in our local cluster of church schools. Occasionally 'one off' acts of worship are planned to fit in with current events and linked to our Christian values. The music is carefully chosen to reflect the theme and encompasses a range of music genres and traditions. It is used as a discussion point at the beginning of the week informing the children of the artist, title of the piece, genre and background information. The timetable provides further information about which year group is responsible for writing the prayers for each theme.

There is a collective worship display in the hall which is used as a focal point. Christian artefacts are on display along with prayers. The display includes a collective worship book where worship leaders can record the content of their worship and children can write reflective comments. There is an additional focal display in the schools main entrance comprising of a prayer tree, incorporating the school's Christian Values. The purpose of this is to engage the pupils in reflection that may be linked to the Collective Worship theme or be a prayer written on a personal level.

Worship leaders focus on making acts of worship engaging and interactive so that all pupils feel involved. Throughout the year specific opportunities are provided for pupils to take a more active role in collective worship through church services for example. Pupils are given the opportunity to engage spiritually with peers from all year groups by being organised into house teams for some gatherings.

Pupils have the opportunity to take the lead in acts of worship by

Collective worship typically includes:

Gathering:

- Music that reflects the current week's theme playing as children enter the hall
- Greeting from a pupil/leader
- Bidding prayer from a pupil/leader
- The sign of the trinity

Engaging

- Main address incorporating elements of stories, mime, role play, games, talk partners, questions, etc
- Reference to the Bible and/or teachings of Jesus

Responding

- Quiet time for reflection
- Prayer
- Opportunity to write in the collective worship book or for the prayer tree

Sending

- Hymn/song
- Music that reflects the current week's theme playing as children leave the hall

In addition to the daily act of collective worship all pupils participate in prayers within their class at the start and end of each day and before lunchtime.

Links with All Saints Church, Elton and the local community

We attend church for major Holy Days and support special services such as Remembrance Sunday and Mothering Sunday. We hold services in the church at the end of each term and work closely with the Church community to ensure that representatives lead an act of worship in the school as frequently as possible. We promote a sense of community by working closely with the local church schools of Folksworth and Stilton on shared initiatives. We also regularly invite members of the Church community into school to share in school events.

Withdrawal

We pride ourselves on ensuring that collective worship is relevant and accessible to all pupils and work closely with parents to ensure that all pupils participate. Parents do however have the right to request their child’s withdrawal from collective worship and in order to do this must make an appointment to meet with the head teacher to discuss the request. The school will provide suitable supervision for any child whose parent has requested their withdrawal. Pupils must not be withdrawn from collective worship other than at the request of a parent.

Foundation Governors

The foundation governors at the school play a critical role in monitoring and evaluating the impact of collective worship. The link Governor meets regularly with the RE subject leader to discuss developments and participates in acts of worship. In addition, a foundation governor attends a Collective Worship led by a different member of staff each week. The foundation governor takes on an active role during the Collective Worship, joining in and engaging with the worship’s content.

Review

- Collective Worship is monitored on an ongoing basis by the Head teacher, Deputy head teacher, RE subject leader and Foundation Governors
- Objectives for collective worship are included on the Raising Attainment Plan

This policy was reviewed on:

Signed Head teacher

Signed Chair of Governors