



Collective Worship Policy

Fordham All Saints

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Policy Reviewed
Next Review

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Summer Term 2022

1 Introduction

This policy was written by the headteacher in collaboration with staff, governors, representatives of All Saints Church and the Diocese. It explains the policy for collective worship at this school and how we interpret the legislation set out by the government. We have consulted and followed the 2013 Guidance for Collective Worship from SACRE also.

2 The legal requirements for Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Act stated that:

- all pupils must take part in an act of collective worship every day
- the act of collective worship may be as a whole school or in different age groupings
- it may happen at any time of the school day
- it has to take place on school premises In a controlled school acts of worship may take place off school premises but these should be in addition to the statutory acts of collective worship on the premises.
- the headteacher is responsible for ensuring the legal requirements for Collective Worship are met. (In a voluntary controlled school the responsibility for securing daily acts of worship lies with *the governing body* after consultation with the headteacher).
- the character and content of collective worship in these schools continues to be determined by governing bodies in accordance with their Trust Deeds.
- "Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership within the church at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing and education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experiences it offers to its children."

- all staff, including the headteacher have the legal right to withdraw from the Act of Collective worship. The headteacher remains responsible for finding someone suitable to organise and lead the acts of worship.
- all parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship, wholly or partially. The school's responsibility for the child's health and safety is still paramount.

3 Aims

At our school we believe that Collective Worship should:-

- give expression to, reaffirm and practise the 8 agreed values at Fordham All Saints CE Primary School. These being: friendship, respect, trust, honesty, perseverance, responsibility, compassion and hope.
- strengthen and support the school community and individual members and reaffirming the Christian values of the school
- be of a broadly Christian nature
- provide an experience of worship that gives children the opportunity to respond to the presence, power and peace of God
- introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year
- explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to some well known Christian prayers, e.g. Lord's Prayer as well as joining in with our own school prayer.
- provide an experience that promotes the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of pupils
- provide an opportunity for personal and shared reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- celebrate the gifts that each child brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God
- celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
- foster a respect for self and engender a concern for the needs of others within the school and the wider world.

- encourage children to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around them
- foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.

In particular the following school aims are directly supported through the act of Collective Worship:-

- provide a safe, caring and happy atmosphere, based on Christian principles, within which everyone feels valued, and where there are good manners, kindness and good discipline;
- for children and all staff to have PRIDE in their learning- demonstrating Perseverance, Respect, Inspiration, Determination and Enjoyment in all they do.
- promote a policy of inclusion where all pupils are welcomed, regardless of their special need, disability, gender, race or religion;
- set high standards (Believe to Achieve), promote positive attitudes to learning, and support a “learning culture” for everyone, adults and children;
- develop creative abilities and interests within a curriculum which, beyond the core subjects, is broad and balanced;
- seek active partnerships with parents, the local Church, local schools and the wider community;
- prepare children for life in the multi-cultural, technological society of the 21st century.

4 Inclusion

At Fordham All Saints we acknowledge that our school community is not a ‘worshipping community’ in the same sense as a local church. We provide daily acts of Collective Worship, however, which we believe help children understand some of the features of worship in a believing Christian community. These are:

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| • praise | • reflection | • celebration |
| • thanks | • showing empathy | • sharing |

We have chosen these elements because we believe they are also important features of our everyday life in school and are therefore appropriate responses for all pupils and staff in our community.

The law also requires us to provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God as part of our Collective Worship. We therefore provide an opportunity to respond in the form of a time of quiet reflection at the end of each act of collective worship before a final prayer. This time is for each pupil and adult present to be quiet and think about what they have heard; this will provide opportunity for each to worship God if they should wish to do so.

5) The approach to Collective Worship at Fordham All Saints

The acts of collective worship are planned to give pupils a variety of experiences to enable them to reflect on, and respond to, things which we, as a school community, believe are important. These experiences will include:

- the telling of appropriate stories (Biblical, moral, multi-cultural)
- drama
- live links on special occasions such as video links on Remembrance and special anniversaries through Discovery Education and Skype etc.
- poetry
- music
- use of TV and film

5) The organisation of Collective Worship at Fordham All Saints

5 i) During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Due to restrictions on groups of people gathering together all acts of worship will be carried out in class bubbles. Whole school worship is delivered remotely via Teams or Zoom.

Monday	Exec Head	Whole school worship for Chappel and Fordham Schools together via Teams/Zoom	9.00am – 9.15am
Thursday	Head of School	Whole school singing assembly via Zoom - promoting enjoyment of singing, practising hymns, songs relevant for time of year- harvest, Christmas, Easter etc.	Flexible timing
Friday	Head of School	Whole School- Gold Book Celebration assembly of achievements across the school and reflection on the week of learning and the values shown.	10.05am- 10.30am

Tuesday & Wednesday	Class teachers	Each class to organise their own act of worship at an appropriate time during the day	Flexible timing
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5ii) During normal school operation

There is an act of Collective worship every day following the pattern shown below:

Monday	Executive Head	Whole School- linked to the value of the half term	9am-9.20am
Tuesday	Representative from All Saints Church	Whole School- linked to the value of the half term	2.50pm-3.10pm
Wednesday	Head of School	Whole School- singing assembly promoting enjoyment of singing, practising hymns, songs relevant for time of year- harvest, Christmas, Easter etc.	2.50pm-3.10pm
Thursday	Key Stage staff on rota	Key Stage 2 in hall, Key Stage 1 in Class 1- linked to value of the half term and planned from All Saints overview linked to Bible stories etc.	2.50pm-3.10pm
Friday	Exec Head or Head of School	Whole School- Gold Book Celebration assembly of achievements across the school and reflection on the week of learning and the values shown.	10.05am- 10.30am

Collective Worship Plan

1. Music on as enter, CDs to choose from in hall and / or children who play instruments to play on entry and exit. Image to promote thinking about a value on screen or slide linked to current value.
2. Adult leading starts with a 'Greeting' using the cards on the table then a child is chosen to come out to light main candle and all join in with school prayer or Lords Prayer once lit.
3. Hymn- stand
4. Main assembly / worship- interactive, children used, links to value of the half term Bible stories and the underpinning Christian doctrine (particularly delivered by RR and others from All Saints Church).
5. Lights off reflection candle lit..pose a reflective thought, silence for at least 30 seconds.
6. Finish with a teacher led prayer or a Y6 to come out and read, sometimes using a prayer from the Prayer Tree followed by a 'sending out' from the cards on the table.
7. Music back on, leave walking back to classes.

The school actively encourages other groups and organisations to visit the school and deliver acts of worship. The school also encourages pupils to run their own assemblies on various themes over the year and these are usually presented to parents and our local community.

Acts of worship are also held in the Parish church e.g. at Christmas- Christingle and Carol Service, All Saints Day, Leaver's Service, Easter and Harvest.

6 Resources for Collective Worship

These are available in the staff room and from the headteacher. We use a range of written materials as well as on-line assemblies. We actively promote the involvement of the children (drama, reading the final prayer, lighting the candle etc.) to promote both the enjoyment and understanding of the theme each time.

7 Planning

In our school Collective Worship is planned:-

- Around half-termly values primarily and then:
- Around major festivals
- In response to local, national, international news and issues.

The acts of worship are co-planned with Mrs. Reynolds from All Saints Church who provides support for suitable Bible stories and passages relevant to the value of the half term and special occasions - Harvest, All Saints Day etc. While staff are encouraged to follow these, allowances are made for marking festivals or other newsworthy events.

8 Recording

Records of the provision supplied by All Saints Church are kept on record and the Executive Headteacher holds records of acts of worship led on a Monday.

9 Monitoring & Evaluation

At Fordham All Saints CE, Collective Worship will be monitored and evaluated by:

1. Discussion at staff and governor meetings (minutes to be kept with the records). This discussion will include:

- * Review of content and methodology;
- * Suitability for age, aptitude and ability, variety of styles, leadership;
- * Links to curriculum and classroom experience;
- * Resources and budget;
- * direct observations of worship

2. Through Pupil Snack and Chat sessions led by the headteacher and Deputy head to assess pupil enjoyment, learning and understanding of the collective worship provision.

Withdrawal

Parents may ask for their child to be totally or partially withdrawn from Collective worship in accordance with the Education Act. They are advised of this right in the School brochure and asked to contact the headteacher to make arrangements. No reasons have to be given but discussion with parents over the issues concerning withdrawal is recommended in Circular 1/94 and is preferred by the school. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussions with the headteacher followed by a written confirmation of withdrawal. Staff also have the right to withdraw.

No pupils or staff have expressed a wish to withdraw from Collective Worship.