



Collective Worship Policy

Date: March 2021

Review Date: March 2024



Jesus said, 'Come follow me, live your lives the way God wants you to.'



St Thomas' Church of England School
Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

Jesus said, "Come, follow me and live your life the way God wants you to"

Collective worship is central to the life of our school. Worship offers the children and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian ethos. It reflects the mission statement and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

Collective Worship and assemblies are not the same. The school community meets together for Collective Worship and there are other times when they assemble together for other purposes e.g. sports notices, distribution of certificates. Sometimes assembly will follow immediately after collective worship.

Aims of Collective Worship: Explore, Encounter, Experience...

- To stimulate the spiritual development of pupils;
- To foster a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty, mystery and power of God;
- To explore a sense of the sacred and allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that is of eternal concern and value to human beings;
- To enable pupils to encounter the vocabulary of worship;
- To offer pupils a chance for reflection and quiet approach to the school values of compassion, thankfulness, respect, responsibility, peace, friendship and koinonia;
- To worship in an open, honest atmosphere that is enjoyable, creative and imaginative;
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian Faith by learning about the significance of Jesus and the Bible;
- To explore ideas about God and a personal relationship with God;
- To enable worship to impact all areas of the curriculum;
- To experience a range of worship styles;
- To introduce the children to the traditions of the Anglican Church including the major seasons, festivals and saints days;
- To encounter worship and prayer as part of the natural rhythm of the day providing opportunities to experience quiet and stillness;
- To introduce the children to multi-cultural Christianity;
- To encourage sharing, achievement, joys and challenges within a contemporary school Christian community;
- To provide an opportunity for celebration and thanksgiving and a sharing of emotions such as love, joy, friendship, hope, forgiveness etc;
- To provide everyone with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation which might include praise, forgiveness and intercession;
- To foster a sense of fellowship by bringing pupils together to celebrate shared Christian values and ethos;
- To encourage a sense of responsibility towards other people and the environment and our local, national and international community;
- develop as a community based in Christian values;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship;
- feel safe and affirmed.



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LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act:

- There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils.
- The character of the worship must be in accordance with the original foundation and trust deed.
- Collective Worship makes a significant contribution to the ethos of the school and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the school.
- Responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the Head Teacher after consultation with the Governing Body and the Rector.
- Acts of worship are Christian in character reflecting the traditions of Christian belief, and have regard for the age, aptitude and family background of pupils recognising the vulnerability of children.
- Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. (This should be in writing).
- Schools must make adequate provision for pupils who are withdrawn.
- Collective worship is not 'curriculum time', and does not constitute religious education, but it ought to enhance it.

At St. Thomas' Church of England Primary School, Collective Worship is based on the belief that our school has a Church of England foundation and that we will promote Christian values within the school as exemplified by the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.

It also makes a unique contribution to the aims and ethos of the school, and therefore to the Christian education we provide. Our Mission Statement from Matthew Chapter 6 states **Jesus said, "Come, live your life the way that God wants you to"**. The whole school community are fully aware of this statement and aim to build their lives upon it. Worship permeates everything we do as Jesus Christ is central to our faith.

Parents are made aware that the school is a Church of England school and as such Collective Worship is based upon the foundations and principles of the Anglican tradition. The Christian ethos and foundation of the school are made aware to staff through adverts for jobs and on their appointment. We endeavour to send all staff on specific training provided by the Diocese for all new to teaching in a Church of England School. We promote the development of our school leaders through Diocesan leadership training which we believe is good succession planning.

Jesus said, "Come, follow me and live your life the way God wants you to" Mark 1:14

Ingredients for Effective Worship

- The Bible as a source for inspiration & learning
- Reading passages from the Bible
- Re-telling Bible stories
- Christian symbols, including candles
- Visual focus for prayer & reflection
- Observation of the religious cycle of the Christian Year e.g. Advent, Christmas, Easter
- Observe Saints Days & Holy Days
- Recognition of other key Christian festivals e.g. Pentecost
- Participation in Eucharist
- Opportunity for prayer & reflection
- Lord's Prayer & Grace



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- Meditation & Silence
- Christian responses & greetings
- Stories
- Music for worship, from a variety of traditions
- Singing Hymns (traditional) & Songs
- Poetry, art, DVDs, slide presentations
- Drama & role play
- Topical issues
- Dance & Flag Flying
- Outside visitors e.g. Baptist Church, Moody Bible Students

Planning

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in Worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme, and the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils. Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as dance and drama alongside traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England.

Evaluation

Evaluation is an integral part of the process to improve the quality of worship. Worship can be evaluated by those leading worship, other staff, pupils for whom the worship is intended and the governing body.

Monitoring

The foundation governors and Governors Distinctiveness Committee have a key role in this. The following areas should be monitored regularly:

- The centrality of worship in the life of the school;
- Clear Policy agreed by Governors;
- Agreed Policy is implemented;
- All staff are aware of the legal requirements for church schools;
- Worship takes place daily;
- School's Trust deed is upheld;
- Appointed staff are prepared to support the Christian ethos of the school;
- Themes are well balanced throughout the year;
- Links with the local parish & community;
- Finances are available to develop worship;
- Resources are available to support worship;
- Reporting back to Governors should be done regularly.

Organisation

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings in the school hall, classrooms, remotely (e.g. zoom) and on occasions outside. We follow the seasons of the Church year and within this significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost and other days such as Candlemas. Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

Every half term, the headteacher, who is the lead for worship, produces a worship timetable for staff. We have an agreed programme for the format of the Collective Worship for each day of the week:



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Monday: 9.05 - 9.30am

Whole school Collective Worship led by the Headteacher.

Tuesday: 9.05am – 9.30am

Alternate weeks: Child Led worship (In Another Place) and worship through song led by Head Teacher & Mrs. Lockley. Parents are invited to worship led by our rector (this is advertised through our newsletter and parentapp).

Wednesday: 9.05 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.

Whole school worship led by the Rector, Head Teacher, staff member or visiting speaker. On one Wednesday at least every term the Rector leads a Family Eucharist. Parents, St Thomas' congregation and other friends of the school are welcome to this service of Holy Communion which usually lasts until 9.45 a.m.

Thursday: 9.05 a.m. – 9.25 a.m.

Class worship including opportunities for child-led worship e.g. worship teams.

Friday: 9.05 a.m. – 9.25 a.m.

Whole school worship. We then follow with an assembly celebrating 'good work and achievements' of the children.

Every Half Term

During the last week of every half term, children from each class take turns to lead their class worship; we call this 'Worship Teams'. The parents of the children involved in leading the worship are invited to attend. This means that at some point throughout the year, every child is given the opportunity to plan and deliver worship.

Worship is continued during the day when all children say 'grace' at the beginning of lunch in their classrooms, and all classes join in a prayer at the end of the school day before going home.

SPECIAL SERVICES**Harvest Service**

We hold a special Harvest Thanksgiving Service in school each October, which is led by the pupils of Year 5, and to which parents are invited. After the Service, some of the produce donated is taken by the children to a local sheltered accommodation for elderly people. Non-perishables are donated to the local food bank

Nativity

This is an important act of worship which is organised by the Infant children and their teachers in December each year. Parents are invited to attend.

Easter Service

This is organised by the staff and children in Years 3 & 4 accompanied by whole school singing. Parents are invited to attend. Sometimes it is held at St Thomas' Church.

End of Year Service

Each year, the children from Year 6 attend the 'Leavers' Service' at Liverpool Cathedral for all those children who are leaving Church of England Primary Schools in the Liverpool Diocese. We also hold our own special leavers service in St Thomas' Church each year in July also led by Y6.

Welcome Back Service

A welcome back service to school is planned for September each year, this also includes a book bag blessings for all our new children in Reception.

Delivery

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church Community. Children are also given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our Jesus said, 'Come follow me, live your lives the way God wants you to.'



worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote British Values of respect and tolerance.

Each half term we have a theme for the Collective Worship delivered by the Headteacher but including other staff and visitors. A focus table with a Bible and candle and often a visual aid relating to the theme is set up at the front of the hall. The colour of the cloth on the table relates to the season of the Church's year:-

Green – ordinary time
Red – festivals – Christmas, Easter
Purple – special times – advent, lent

Music

Music is used at the beginning and end of each Act of Worship in order to help create the appropriate atmosphere for the Service. Singing is an important part of worship and a variety of songs are used to enhance the children's' worship

Hymns/songs are sung at some point during every Act of Worship, and when we have a whole school assembly, we sometimes say/sing the Lord's Prayer, as very often the children reflect more about the words during this quiet singing of the prayer than they do when just reciting the words.

Main Teaching/Worship Theme

The person leading the worship will usually tell a story, or illustrate the main idea of the theme for the day. Children often take part in the worship answering questions, performing parts assigned to them or leading prayers. Visual aids are often used to enhance the meaning of the story or idea, or as a focus for the children's attention. Effective use of ICT is used in the Hall enabling film clips and Power Point to be used. We aim to make the worship relevant and child-centered. We take various approaches. E.g. café style, outside worship or prayer reflections.

Reflection and Prayer

There will be some time given in each type of Service for the children to reflect quietly on what has been presented, and to pray and to make a personal response. We need to give the children (and members of the school family) opportunities to explore, encounter and experience prayer. These can range from traditional to creative. Some types of prayer are more suited to whole school Collective Worship whilst others may be better in the more intimate settings of classrooms or prayer spaces.

Family Eucharist

The Rector leads these Services. The children will be involved. They may lead/participate in the following:

- Bible readings.
- Presenting information/sketch/performance/dance/musical item to illustrate the main idea of the Service.
- Leading the prayers.
- Taking the Bread, Wine and Collection to the Rector during the Service.
- Singing quietly as the adults take Communion (any children who are of the Roman Catholic faith and have taken First Communion in their own Church, are welcome to take Communion with us, all other children receive a Blessing after Communion has been taken).

Worship Committee

Two children from each class are elected each year (Year 1 – Year 6) to be in the class worship committee. The committee meets often (at least every half term) to help plan and evaluate worship as well as discuss the school's Christian ethos and values. Often children from the worship committee are also chosen to help deliver whole school worship (e.g. through the retelling of stories and reading prayers) and help to plan whole school events such as prayer space weeks.



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Prayer Spaces

There is a designated space in every classroom for class prayer spaces. In addition to this, prayer spaces have been positioned around school (e.g. school corridors) for all children and adults to access. These are areas where children can go to alone or in small groups to reflect and pray. Often prayer spaces are based on a particular theme (e.g. forgiveness) or are linked to a topic or issue (e.g. thanking our front line worker). From time to time our school worship committee will also plan a 'prayer spaces week'. This is when prayer stations have been set up around the school and children and families are encouraged to visit these and pray. There is a prayer spaces resource folder stored in our RE/Worship resource centre. For more information about prayer spaces see <https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/>

Governors

The Governors Distinctiveness Committee have given their approval to this policy document in consultation with the Headteacher and the R.E. co-ordinator

Review and Development

This policy will be reviewed/revised annually by the Headteacher in order to ensure that:-

- It complies with statutory requirements and any new legislation.
- Any necessary actions are included in the School Improvement Plan.

School Prayer

The school worship committee have helped to write our own school prayer:

Heavenly Father

We give thanks for our school.

Help us to work and enjoy learning.

We thank you for family, friends, teachers and helpers.

Give us the strength to do our best in everything we do.

Help us at St. Thomas' to show our school values and grow stronger in faith.

Let love and friendship flourish here and may we be welcoming to all.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Prepared by Mark Ward



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Appendices

The following is a collection of collective worship and prayer resources produced by the Liverpool Diocese.



Jesus said, 'Come follow me, live your lives the way God wants you to.'



Creating a Prayerful Community in our Schools

'Very early in the morning, Jesus left the house and went off to a solitary place where he prayed' Mark 1 v 35

For some staff, teaching children how to pray will come naturally, for others it may be an activity they struggle with. Either way, the following questions, guidelines and ideas will hopefully lead both staff and children into a deeper relationship with God.

Questions for staff, children and governors

Where and when we pray in school?

Is prayer restricted to collective Worship time?

Do all members of the school family get a chance to create, choose and lead prayers?

Are prayers inspiring, inclusive and creative?

Are 'interactive' prayer opportunities created and used?

Do we use a variety of prayer styles as well as traditional Anglican/Methodist/Catholic prayers?

Do we include prayers to our Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

Do we encourage silent prayers and reflections?

Are the children being introduced to different ways to pray?

Has the school got a range of prayer resources available?

Do prayer opportunities help nurture love, care and empathy for one another?

Have you got, or could you create special and comfortable 'prayer spaces' within classrooms or within/ outside the school, where members of the school family can be quiet and reflective?

Is prayer a natural part of the daily life of the school and woven into the fabric of every day?

Remember.....

Jesus placed great importance on spending time with His Father. He would often go to a quiet place to pray. He taught those close to Him not only how to pray- Luke 11 v 6 –The Lord's Prayer, but also the priority it should have in their lives – Ephesians 6 v 18

- As we believe we are all children of God, it is hoped that all members of the school family will want to spend time talking to their Heavenly Father. However, we can only provide the setting, the opportunity and the example and allow everyone to make the choice to participate or just quietly observe and reflect for themselves.
- Prayer is a conversation with our Heavenly Father – we can speak to Him but we must also **take time to listen!**
- We can speak to God **anywhere, any time** and **in so many ways**
- There is no **'one way'** to pray



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'The best resource of all is prayer from the heart, in a language which makes sense to the children.' Rupert Bristow

- Prayer should **not** be restricted to Worship time, before lunch and at the end of the day
- Prayer should be woven into the fabric of everyday life

Prayer opportunities could include.....

- Prayer to begin and end all staff and governors' meetings
- Weekly school staff/church prayer meetings
- Parents' prayer meetings
- Parent and child quiet times
- Prayer in special places eg corners, quiet places – lighting, cushions, music, symbols, pictures /posters for reflection, candles to create an 'oasis' for prayer
- Interactive Prayer opportunities in classroom reflection areas and around the school
- Prayer can be at planned times, but can also be spontaneous!
- Prayer to begin/end RE lessons to help reflect on our learning
- Outdoor reflection gardens/sacred spaces
- Prayer events run by school, parents and parishioners for the whole school family such as, Experience Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost and Church

More brilliant 'prayer spaces' ideas can be found on

www.prayerspacesinschools.com

A Menu of Different ways to Pray

We need to give the children (and members of the school family) opportunities to **EXPLORE, ENCOUNTER** and **EXPERIENCE** prayer. These can range from traditional to creative. Some are more suited to whole school and key stage Collective Worship whilst others may be better in the more intimate settings of classrooms or prayer spaces.

They can be still and reflective or active and interactive.

- **The Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the Grace, the Peace, Confession, Hail Mary, Blessings and other Christian collects and prayers as appropriate to the schools' Christian tradition**

Versions of these prayers from the worldwide Christian church, using the language and symbolism of other cultures are often inspiring and prompt reflection

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- **School or class prayer**
- **Class Prayer book** written by children... could be contributed to by staff, parents, governors and parishioners
- **Teaspoon Prayers** – The letters **T S P** can be written on a wooden spoon.
Thank you to God
Sorry for the things we have done to upset God and others
Please – requests for other people, the world and ourselves
- **Telephone Prayers** –Text (silent prayer) or dial Him (spoken prayer) on an imaginary phone. We can talk and listen. Even if He does not answer us immediately we know He has heard our prayer.
This can be used in any worship setting. A ‘real’ telephone can be put in a reflection area for the children to go and talk privately to God.
- **Question Time** –Play some quiet music as you ask questions for the children to silently consider eg Has it been a good/bad day? Has anything made you happy/sad?
Children can then use these as a starting point for prayers.
- **Prayer Hand** – As you pray ask everyone to hold out their hand and touch each finger as you guide their prayers, for eg...
Thanks for someone who loves you
Pray for someone who is not well, sad or lonely
Say sorry for something you have done wrong
Ask God to help you in some way
Praise Him for something in His wonderful world
- **Prayer Walk** –Take the class/groups outside the classroom and walk around school stopping to give thanks for all the good things they can see. Ask God for His help with anything they notice that concerns them
- **Faces** – Look up to praise God, down for ourselves, left for friends and family and forward for something happening today, tomorrow or next week



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- **God you are great!** – Why not give our Heavenly Father a compliment! Eg Lord, you are really fandazzydoby! I love the way you gave us sunshine for our sports day, You are such a great listener! It's great when....
- **Object Prayers** –use an object as a focus for prayer. Children may work alone and silently reflect, or in pairs/groups to pray together eg car/aeroplane/boat for 'holiday' prayers, shells or cones for 'God's creation', money for prayers about giving to other people
- **Bubble Prayers** – this is a delightful and engaging prayer style. Ask everyone to say a silent prayer for..... blow the bubbles and ask them to watch them. As they 'pop' it reminds us that God has 'caught'/heard our prayers
- **Arrow Prayers** – short often spontaneous prayers (aloud or silent) to ask God to be close if you are worried or upset or to help you or someone else
- **Left and Right** – thank God for, or pray for those either side of you as you hold hands. This can work well in whole school worship as well as in the more intimate classroom setting
- **Prayer Buddies** – older and younger children and even staff can meet to pray together. Classes can be 'buddied' with other classes and spend time together in prayer/reflection
- **Secret prayer agents** – Everyone (including staff) in a class puts their names in a box/hat and secretly pulls out a name. They then pray quietly for that person and try all week to care for and support them. It is good to spend time trying to guess who your prayer agent is and to thank God for them
- **Prayer Pebble Pools** – put small pebbles in a dish and as children/staff pray they can drop their pebble in another dish with a little water....so giving your worries/prayers to God



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- **God's Litter Bin** – this is where we spend time saying sorry or bringing worries to God....a picture or word can be written on a scrap paper, screwed up and put in a wastepaper bin...this shows God has taken away the worry or the sin
- **Jelly Bean Prayers** – this is especially popular if you are able to eat them at the end!! **Red** is the blood He gave

Green is for the grass He made
Yellow is for the sun so bright
Orange is for the edge of night
Blue is for the sins we made
 White is for the grace He gave
Purple for His hour of sorrow
Pink is for our new tomorrow

- **Prayer Walls/Trees** – children are invited to write/draw prayers and stick/hang up their prayers. These can be located in classroom reflection areas, dedicated prayer spaces or somewhere central so that any member of the school family can contribute. They can be for general prayers or focussed on a value or a chosen issue for prayer eg Prayers for the people of the Philipines
- **Sand Prayers** – The initial or picture of someone/something you want to pray for can be written in a small sand tray. As well as in reflection areas or prayer spaces this idea can also be used in worship. Alternatively, in whole school or key stage worship where it may be logistically difficult children/staff can 'write/draw' in the air and pray silently.
- **Prayer Boxes** – These can be located in central areas or worship spaces or in classrooms and prayer spaces. Prayers can be written and put in by any member of the school family. Perhaps these prayers could be offered to God in prayer time or shared if requested



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********* If you are looking for even more 'interactive' prayer ideas you will find wonderful, tried and tested examples on www.prayerspacesin schools

TOP TEN PRAYER ACTIVITIES are updated regularly – not to be missed!!

Acknowledgements and Resources

Many of the above examples together with further prayer styles such as responsive prayers, Celtic and Ionian prayers and the use of poetry for reflection and prayer can be found in

'Putting the 'WOW' into Worship' – Blackburn Diocese

Other inspiring prayer resources and ideas can be found on www.prayforschools.org

www.worshipworkshop.org.uk

'Prayers for Life in a Church Primary School' Gloucester Diocese

'Prayers for Anglican School Worship' Diocese of Liverpool



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Evaluation of Child-led Class based Collective Worship

Year group _____ **Date** _____

Theme _____

Led by _____

Spend time with the class as soon as possible after worship to ask the following questions:

What did you most enjoy about the worship?

Which part was the most 'special' and why?

How did the worship make you feel?

How can the message from today's worship help us to live our lives?

Even better if... Is there anything about the Collective Worship that you think could have made it even better?



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Collective Worship Evaluation Proforma

Type of Worship – Whole School, Class teacher led worship, Key stage, Class Service for parents, School Eucharist, Child-led class based worship, Church Service (please highlight)other.....

Theme _____ **Date** _____

Led by _____

Brief outline of worship eg use of greetings and dismissals, prayer styles, Lord's prayer, blessings, the Grace, Bible or other readings, resources, visual aids, IT, music, hymns/songs, poems, stories, alternative faith stories, visitors, drama/role play etc

Children's participation and engagement eg how well did they listen, respond and show understanding? How much did they enjoy different aspects of the worship? Did the children participate or lead any part of the worship? (Jot down anything special they said or did during the worship)

After Worship spend time talking to a small group of children and 1 or 2 adults about their worship experience.

Key questions

- What did you most enjoy about the worship?
- Which part was the most 'special' and why?
- How did the worship make you feel?
- How can the message from today's worship help us to live our lives?
- Even better if...is there anything about the worship that you think could have been even better?

Children's responses

Adult responses

Any suggestions arising from your observation and discussion?

And finally..... How did the worship make YOU feel?

Completed by _____ **Position** _____



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Monitoring The Impact of Worship

Suggested Questions To Ask Children

- ❖ Tell me about any special services which we hold either in school or in church.
- ❖ What do you learn the most when we have these services?
- ❖ Tell me about any signs or symbols we use in our worship - how are these important to you?
- ❖ Think about any adults who have come into our school for worship - how have they helped you to understand who Jesus was and why they are Christians?
- ❖ Which spaces in school help you to be quiet and to think through things that are important to you?
- ❖ Describe a story that you have heard and liked in collective worship
- ❖ Why is that story special to you?
- ❖ Which hymn or song is special to you - why do people sing hymns and songs at special occasions?
- ❖ What do you enjoy most about the time you spend in collective worship - why?
- ❖ Why is our worship time so important for our school?
- ❖ What does a cross or a lighted candle mean for you during worship?
- ❖ Why do we pray - what part does prayer play in your life - which prayers are special to you?
- ❖ Which part of the Easter story is important for you - is it the Last Supper or Jesus rising from the tomb?
- ❖ Who do you ask to forgive you when you have done something wrong?



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Questions about Collective Worship for the Staff and Governing Body

- Is there a clear policy document for Collective Worship?
- Does the school policy relate to the school's Ethos and/or Mission Statement?
- Is the policy for Collective Worship being followed?
- How is the worship organised?
- Does the school have a named person responsible for Collective Worship alongside the Head Teacher?
- Is there a governor with responsibility for Collective Worship?
- Does the school prospectus clearly reflect the legal position of Collective Worship?
- Does the school prospectus refer to the school's Trust Deed?
- Does the prospectus and other school documentation reflect the value that the school and the governing body place on Collective Worship?
- Is the Collective Worship clearly planned?
- Is there a budget set aside for Collective Worship?
- Is the worship professionally resourced?
- Have staff received in-service training on Collective Worship?
- Does the Collective Worship offered in the school underpin the school's Christian ethos?
- Is the Collective Worship provided underpinned by Christian values?
- Is the Collective Worship regularly monitored and evaluated?
- Does the worship take place in a variety of groupings?
- Are staff present for Collective Worship?
- Are support staff present for Collective Worship?
- Are there opportunities for governors and parents to be present for worship?
- Are there opportunities for individual class worship within the classrooms?
- Does the pattern of worship reflect the broad spectrum of the Anglican tradition and Christian heritage?
- Does the worship allow the pupils to encounter some of the wide range of art, music and artefacts within the Christian tradition?
- Does the quality and provision of Collective Worship offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual development?
- Does the worship offer opportunities for pupils' cultural and multi-cultural development?
- Does the worship give opportunities for the pupils to explore the worldwide Christian Church?
- Does the worship provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God?
- Does the worship take place in an environment conducive to worship?
- Does the worship offer pupils opportunities to encounter the more challenging experiences of life and death?
- Does the worship provide opportunities for the pupils to share and reflect upon things that are significant and meaningful to them?
- Does the worship provide experiences that are relevant to the pupils' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds?
- Does the worship give time for silent reflection and an exploration of inner space?
- Does the worship link into other areas of the school curriculum e.g. PSHE and circle time?
- Do the classrooms have a 'sacred space' or a table set aside with a cloth and a candle as a vehicle for prayer and reflection?
- Have the school considered other vehicles for prayer and reflection e.g. an anonymous prayer box?
- Are pupils, governors, clergy or other visitors involved in leading Collective Worship?
- Does the governing body provide guidance for visitors who lead worship?
- Does the school celebrate the Eucharist?
- Has the governing body discussed the possibility of a school Eucharist?
- Are there regular acts of worship for staff, including a Eucharist?
 - Does the school have any links with other Christian denominations?
 - Does the worship celebrate all that is good and express thankfulness and joy at simply being alive?



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Top Tips for developing Child-led class based CW

Key points to consider:

- Invest some time initially with the **WHOLE** class discussing the 'specialness' of this worship style and how it will be organised
- Use of a centrally located 'Worship Handbook' is very useful- a suggested worship outline, greetings, dismissals and suggested prayer styles
- A selection of children's and traditional Prayer books is also helpful, however 'prayer from their hearts' is always acceptable
- Build in enough time for you or a TA to help the children prepare/practice (at least a week ahead) ie choose story, props, bible reading, music, song, write prayers, sort out who does what etc
- Divide the children into 'worship groups' at the start of the year eg 6 half terms = 5/6 in a group. Parents then know when their child will be leading and can, alongside governors and senior staff be invited to share the worship and later to comment on the impact of the experience
- Younger children can still be 'leaders' but will naturally be given more support and guidance and lead 'alongside' staff
- Worship groups could also be the 'guardians' of your class reflection area for the half term in which they plan and lead the worship...they love this!
- There needs to be a 'preparation' for worship eg period of silence , move to carpet, line up outside and come in to music...worship needs to feel special
- Ensure there is a focal point/reflection table/worship tray, set up by children with appropriate symbols eg candle, cross, artefacts, open Bible, reflective poster etc
- Make sure everyone faces the 'focal' point to make the whole experience 'special' and 'different' (Prayer at any time in class could face this point or be introduced by lighting a candle...battery operated ones are ideal)
- Help the children to select an appropriate piece of music to begin and end worship and to decide the location of their worship...libraries, outdoor areas, church and even under a gazebo are all possible if practical!
- A simple Worship song CD that they know and can use is useful
- At the end of the worship the 'leaders' could say goodbye to parents and perhaps invite them to take home and complete a short evaluation of the CW (an example could be included in the Handbook)
- Alternatively, with older children you could appoint 2 'worship ambassadors' to speak to visitors and ask questions and record responses
- Encourage the leaders to tidy away and return resources
- Asap after worship discuss/complete the class evaluation proforma. A great opportunity for children to reflect on what makes worship Wow!!



Jesus said, 'Come follow me, live your lives the way God wants you to.'



The Trinity in Collective Worship

The SIAMS framework asks inspectors to evaluate:

‘how well collective worship enables the participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit’

We can do this by

- Singing a range of traditional hymns and modern worship songs which speak of God as Father, Son or Holy Spirit
- Ensuring we pray to to Our Heavenly Father, Father God, Dear Lord Jesus, in the name of Jesus the Son of God and by asking the Holy Spirit to help us
- Through the celebration of Christian Festivals eg
Harvest - God our Father who created the world
Christmas – God our Father sent His Son, Jesus to be born as man
Easter – Jesus the Son of God died for us
Pentecost – When we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit
**Children should be able to talk simply about the ‘three persons’ of God

See also ‘Out of the Box Worship’ KS1 and 2

‘Jack in the Box’ worship Early Years

For creative and interactive class worship. The Trinity is built in and themes focus on Christian values as in ‘Values for Life’.

The Worship Box is the central resource for worship. As well as containing creative items bespoke for each act of worship it should ALWAYS contains a Bible – God our Father, a Cross –God the Son and a Candle – God the Holy Spirit, so teaching about the Trinity

Available from www.jumpingfish@glosdioc.org.uk



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Strategies for Evaluating Collective Worship

The evaluation of Collective Worship is the responsibility of the headteacher, worship co-ordinator and foundation governors.

The formation of a **governors'** 'Church Distinctiveness Committee' can oversee and participate in the evaluations of Worship and of the overall effectiveness of the school as a church school. They can then actively and effectively contribute to the schools self-evaluation

Pupils should be actively involved in evaluating, planning and leading Collective Worship. This can be done in class (see below) and overseen by a pupils' **'WOW' group**. In many schools this group works enthusiastically to review the effectiveness of the school as a church school and to come up with and implement ideas to enrich the spiritual aspect of school life. They see themselves as 'Ambassadors' for their school!

The evaluation of CW should be based on the impact of CW on **ALL members of the school/church family**

It should also include **children's, staff and parents' views**

Evaluations should be reviewed regularly and action points from these evaluations included in the SIP

Evidence to support the completion of the school's self-evaluation of Collective worship can take a variety of forms including:

- **Evaluation proformas**- to be completed by H/T, worship co-ord or foundation governors. Evidence of the evaluation of the full range of worship experiences eg whole school, key stage, church, class based, should be completed over time. An overview of these, perhaps 2x a year should summarise positive points. Areas for development can also be identified and actioned.
- **Pupil, Staff and Parent worship questionnaires**
Key questions for these can be formulated based on the SIAMS criteria, views collated, discussed and actioned
- **Parent worship evaluations**- a small group of parents could be interviewed after worship either by an adult evaluating the experience or by older children acting as 'worship ambassadors'. Alternatively, they could be asked to record their views in a Worship Celebration Book



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- 'A Worship Golden Book' - this is a very empowering and ongoing evaluation strategy which is based on each class taking the book for a week. Each day after worship the class discusses the experience, what they enjoyed, what was most special and why, how it made them feel, how it will impact their actions, attitudes and behaviours and even better if...
Children or staff scribe replies. The book is given to the H/T or worship co-ordinator on a Friday. Views are read and briefly summarised in Monday's worship. The book is handed-on to the next class....it becomes a treasured and wonderful testimony to the impact of Collective Worship
- Worship Wall - This can either be a central display for everyone to add comments or in the Reflection areas in classrooms
- Learning Walks - these could involve children with adult 'evaluators' in identifying and looking at the quality and use of Reflection areas in classrooms, Reflection tables for worship and any special Prayer Spaces both inside and outside school
- Worship Portfolios - including sample planning, photographs and any one-off evaluations of special worship experiences by adults or children eg Experience Christmas/Harvest, Prayer Spaces events and Cathedral Leavers' services
- Church/School Partnership submission - The Collective Worship section of this document provides a very strong evidence base to support the school's self-evaluation. This external award validates the school's views

Worship Greetings

*Please feel free to allow children to select, **create** and lead greetings and dismissals*

Leader: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Leader: Jesus is with us!

All: Hallelujah!!

Leader: Peace be with you

All: And also with you

Leader: Come on everyone! Clap your hands!

All: Clap your hands with joyful praise!

Leader: Jesus, the light of the world is here!

All: Lord Jesus Shine upon us!

Leader: The Lord is here!

All: His Spirit is with us!

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made!

All: Let's praise God and be thankful!

You may need to 'practice' these until they become familiar

Don't be afraid to use new greetings/dismissals by saying for eg 'I'm going to say..... and I want you to answer.....'



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Worship Dismissals

Try to ensure that the dismissal 'sends everyone out' into the school and beyond, to show how the message of the worship is going to impact their actions, attitudes, behaviours, opinions and relationships

Leader: May the Lord bless us this day in all that we do

All: Amen!

Leader: Let us go out and make our school a happy place

All: With the help of Jesus we will!

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve one another!

All: In Jesus name we will!

Leader: Let's go out into our school and homes and show.....(add the value)

All: We will!

Leader: Can we show compassion (or other value).... to others today?

All: Yes we can!

Leader: May the light of Jesus shine in our hearts

All: Amen!

Leader: May God bless and help us in all we do and say today

All: Thank you Lord Jesus



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