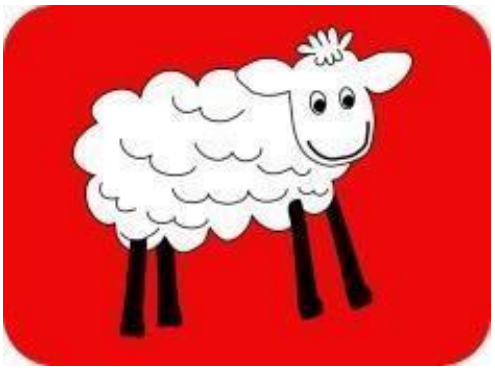


Sheepy Magna
Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Headteacher: Alison Field

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Foundation Governor: Reverend Julia Hargreaves

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Last Reviewed – June 2025

Next Review Date – June 2027

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

INTRODUCTION

This Policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's Mission Statement. It supports and reinforces the aims of Sheepy School, valuing all children equally.

The ethos of the school, encompassing all that we stand for, is reflected in and expressed through Collective Worship; it derives from the Christian tradition and seeks to activate our beliefs and values which are set out, clearly, in the School Prospectus.

Collective Worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school. It is an oasis in the school day when children meet together with members of staff in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is regarded as 'quality' time and represents something special or separate from ordinary school routine.

DEFINITIONS

Worship: can be defined as paying homage to (revering) that which is of worth ("Worth-ship.") Religious Worship is the acknowledgement of 'worth' which is attributable to a supreme being. Worth can also be registered in other people and in values and attitudes.
School Assembly: is a gathering of the school community; it is often used to celebrate and focus on the life and values of the community itself.
Corporate Worship: is a gathering of a body ('corpus') of believers and pre-supposes a particular religious commitment.
Collective Worship: is a gathering of a 'collection' of people of diverse, religious, agnostic and non-religious backgrounds and does not pre-suppose any particular religious commitment.

RATIONALE - LEGAL

- The legal requirement in Anglican schools is for worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and will, therefore, be wholly Christian in character.
- The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society.
- All maintained schools – including church schools – must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils.

RATIONALE – RELIGIOUS/EDUCATIONAL

Collective Worship:-

- Gives children the opportunity to enter into experiences which lie at the heart of religion. These experiences help them to learn about religious worship and provide a framework for later understanding.
- Fosters a reverential attitude to God, the Divine, and the transcendent.
- Encourages pupils to consider fundamental questions about the purpose of being and about moral and ethical stances.
- Provides an opportunity, for those who can use it, to participate in religious worship.
- Allows us to learn and celebrate values we hold to be important.
- Brings children together, enabling them to experience the security of belonging to a community with an identity of its own.
- Is the source of much interesting and thought provoking knowledge.
- Offers pleasurable expression through literature, art, music and drama.
- Makes an important, though not exclusive, contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

The following principles guide our approach to Collective Worship at Sheepy School.
Collective Worship should:

- have a sense of occasion
- provide experiences within which pupils' spiritual development may flourish
- be a means of expressing the ethos and values of the school
- be educational and should contribute to the Religious Education of all pupils
- be shaped to the needs of the school, (time, place, content, style etc.)
- provide a varied pattern of worship to broaden pupils' experience of its different forms.
- recognise that the school includes children from different religious and non-religious backgrounds.

During Collective Worship some will be worshipping and some will be experiencing something approaching worship; others will be finding out what it is like to worship by being with those who are.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of Collective Worship are to:-

- affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God;
- introduce pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement and prayer;
- create a warm, spiritual, caring and respectful atmosphere in assemblies, conducive to worship; including themanner of entry and exit;
- encourage, in children, a thoughtful and reflective attitude;
- help pupils experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness;
- enable pupils to use silence for reflection and contemplation;
- raise pupil's curiosity about the ultimate mysteries of life;
- enable pupils to learn about and consider in depth Christian teaching, Christian festivals and biblical material;
- enable pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to those of others;
- enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- guide children towards the spiritual and religious options open to them;
- help children distinguish between right and wrong;
- affirm pupils' personal worth and responsibility;
- celebrate individual and collective achievements;
- develop a sense of community within the school;
- celebrate religious festivals and special occasions with specified worship.

MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate Governors.

The Collective Worship Lead has responsibility for managing the worship on a day to day basis, ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with. The Lead also keeps in touch with national developments in school worship, acts in an advisory capacity, supporting colleagues and ensures that the monitoring and evaluating of collective worship is carried out.

Daily acts of Collective Worship take place in the school hall or in the classroom at allocated times.

Each week the worship follows a planned theme. The structure of assemblies includes music, a song of praise, a story or talk, a reading from the Bible, a period of reflection, a prayer, the Lord's Prayer, the school prayer and a reminder each day of the theme for the week which may havean accompanying 'quote.'

Once a week the local clergy, along with members of the community leads the worship in school through 'Open the Book'and on special Christian days the whole school holds their Collective Worship in All Saint's Church.

ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP

"There are times when worship will be quiet, contemplative and serene and others when laughter, music and dance will be the appropriate form of expression."

Atmosphere - is all-important in creating the right foundation for Collective Worship. Quiet, orderly behaviour and respectful attitudes on entering, leaving and throughout the assembly are expected. We light a candle at the beginning of each assembly or at the moment of reflection.

Music - is played at the beginning and end of the assembly. One piece is selected each week appropriate to the theme. Pupils' attention is drawn to it each day and a simple explanation/ description may be given in the Hymn Practice.

Stories and talks - are carefully chosen to fulfill the objectives of Collective Worship. Stories of a religious or secular nature may be used whilst personal anecdote from pupils, teachers and visitors is effective in expressing that which is important in our own lives. Particular emphasis is laid upon helping children to understand themselves better, to develop empathy and to face up to moral issues.

Songs - are chosen from a wide variety of traditional and modern hymns and choruses. One or two are used at each assembly. Some are learned by heart and actions are incorporated, whilst others are displayed on the projector screen. Hymns and songs create the opportunity for children to express thoughts and feelings that are difficult to put into words; and they provide a real source of pleasure.

Prayer and reflection - are the most personal part of an act of worship. Collective Worship in school should provide opportunities for children to be taken to the threshold of prayer, and to cross it if they wish, in a way that respects the integrity of all present. Participation in prayer can never be imposed but we stress the need for stillness, reflection and respect for others. Silence, written prayers, impromptu prayers, The Lord's Prayer, children's prayers and school prayers may be used. A candle is lit and provides a focus for pupils' thoughts. Reflection and thinking time are given some direction by the leader in order to concentrate pupils' response.

Scripture - sentences may be quoted from the Bible and, where appropriate, from sacred books and writings of other world faiths to show links. Longer passages may be used as readings.

CONTENT

Planning for Collective Worship is the responsibility of the Lead. Suggestions and requests from staff are welcomed, whilst input and guidance from the incumbent on the selection of themes is valued.

Themes might have a specific religious base, they may wish to reflect a theme common to all religions such as 'creation.' or be concerned with common values held by religious and non-religious people alike such as 'caring and sharing.' Themes are closely related to the school community and are often illustrated by stories of human endeavour. Themes also link to local and national events, such as Black History Month, Empathy Day or to our British Values. We also use themes relevant to our cohort such as Autism, Tourettes or physical/medical disabilities to raise awareness and to develop an understanding of the needs within our school.

Links with R.E. and the Curriculum is incorporated wherever possible. Common themes link R.E. and Collective Worship. The apt choice of story can link worship with current topic work e.g. 'Caring', 'Florence Nightingale'. They are also regularly linked with our Christian Values. Assemblies can be followed up in the classroom by further discussion and emphasis throughout the day, particularly those based around values. There is often an overlap between Collective Worship and Personal and Social Education.

RESOURCES

Resources for assemblies are found in the cupboard in the hall, in the Den or in the Kitchen.

RECORDS AND ASSESSMENT

Records of assemblies are contained in the Collective Worship file.

Assessment of Collective Worship is carried out jointly by the Head Teacher and the Lead through:-

- checking that practice matches aims and objectives;
- observation of children's' attentiveness and level of interest;
- classroom feedback from pupils, both written and verbal;
- comments from parents. visitors and governors;
- the extent of the influence upon pupils' attitude and behaviour throughout the school day;
- self-evaluation/comment by the teacher, on the daily planning sheet.

Staff meetings are used for discussion and the update of information as and when necessary.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. The school prospectus informs parents of their right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship. Such pupils are fully supervised in another part of the school.

MULTICULTURALISM

A variety of multicultural material is available throughout the school. Stories are shared and festivals celebrated in accordance with the major faiths represented within the school, e.g. Christian/Muslim/etc. This allows children to understand links between different faiths and tolerance and understanding of other religions is insisted upon.

ROLE OF LEADER

- To write the school's policy for Collective Worship in consultation with the foundation governors.
- To ensure that all staff are aware of and use the policy document.
- To review the policy on a regular basis.
- To plan an overall balanced programme of worship for the year.
- To draw up assembly rotas.
- To involve colleagues, pupils and visitors in worship.
- To advise on planning, ideas and resources.
- To be responsible for ordering, maintaining and displaying resources.
- To administer the budget for Collective Worship.
- To monitor and evaluate, with others, Collective Worship in all its forms.
- To report to governors.
- To maintain a Collective Worship display board in the hall.
- To keep up to date with recent publications, attend Diocesan courses and disseminate information and feedback to staff.
- To liaise with the incumbent, governing body and Diocesan officers on matters relating to Collective Worship.