



## Collective Worship Policy

### Policy Administration

Policy Author:	Rebekah Ng
Ownership:	Quality of Education Committee
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### Policy Objective

Collective Worship at St John's C of E Primary School is intrinsically linked to our school vision:

***"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."***  
**John 10:10**

It gives the pupils and staff the opportunity each day to take part in reflection or prayer and:

- engage in an act of community.
- express praise and thanksgiving to God.
- be still and reflect.
- explore the big questions of life and, when appropriate, respond to national and global events.
- foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness.
- reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ.
- affirm Christian values and attitudes.
- share each other's joys and challenges.
- celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

Our central aims of Collective Worship are:

- to promote the ethos and values of the school
- to share and explain to the whole school the importance of our value of the month from our 'Christian Values' led education
- to provide opportunities for pupils and staff to share, celebrate and to reflect together on the wonders, pleasures and joy of life.
- to provide opportunities for those with a religious commitment to deepen and broaden their experiences of worship and for those as yet uncommitted to begin to feel something of what it means to worship.
- to learn about and compare the different religious traditions of the world as well as Christianity, and to nurture the children in the Christian faith.
- to affirm the worth of every individual within the school community and in the wider community and to encourage a caring concern for others in society and for the natural world.
- to reinforce positive attitudes and to raise awareness in a sensitive way of misunderstandings and biased attitudes.

We support the broader curriculum through the use of the highest standards of music, art, drama and literature. Collective Worship is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life, to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our pupils.



## Collective Worship Policy

### Policy Statement

Collective Worship at St John's Church of England Primary School, Lemsford takes place daily in accordance with the provisions of the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998.

The content of all our acts of Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of this Church of England School.

The policy has been prepared by the Headteacher and staff and agreed by the Governing Body.

### Policy Criteria and procedure for exceptions

Whole school Collective Worship is held every day, with Wednesday mornings being focused on worship through hymn practice and prayers. Collective Worship lasts approximately 20 minutes.

All teaching staff assist the Headteacher in conducting and contributing to whole school Collective Worship, and visitors play an important part in the life of our school,

Each Thursday morning, the whole school and staff walk to St John's Church, next door, for a service led by the vicar, assisted by lay readers. Parents, parishioners and friends are welcomed to these services. The children are encouraged to get involved with the service in a variety of ways through drama, bible readings, singing and dancing. The school also joins with the church on relevant Sundays to celebrate Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Other major Christian festivals are either celebrated at our weekly Thursday church service or in a normal school Collective Worship. The Headteacher and vicar work together to ensure a high quality experience. The vicar or lay readers carefully link our monthly value to their service.

### Content and Approach of Collective Worship

1. Celebration of the major festivals of Christianity and acknowledgement of other faiths and their important festivals.
2. Use of music (this will include CDs as an introduction and conclusion, singing and instrumental playing by members of the school) drama and other.
3. Presentation of Bible stories.
4. Topical matters from the news or the locality.
5. Literature with implicit or explicit religious teaching.
6. Appreciation of the natural world and human activity.
7. Appreciation of the talents, achievements and work of ourselves and others.
8. Visitors who represent organisations who have a brief acceptable to the school.
9. Prayer in different forms – formal, pupil led, silence and extemporaneous.
10. Appropriate artefacts and focal points (candle, cross, flowers etc).
11. Participation by the children.

### Resources

- There are resources for staff to access in the staffroom, as well as various Collective Worship resource websites.
- Teaching staff use the 'Big Bible Stories' and the Roots and Fruits materials on a two year cycle to support planning and subject knowledge when leading worship.
- Artefacts for different faiths are located in the school dining hall resource area.
- Visual aids (artefacts, posters and books) are purchased regularly.

(Please see the appendix for suggested resources and activities when planning an act of Collective Worship).



### **Evaluation and Review**

The Headteacher, governors and staff will review this policy every three years. A Collective Worship file is kept to ensure that acts of worship are generally compatible with the requirements of the policy and to inform our learning and planning for further developments.

Governors and the Headteacher monitor acts of Collective Worship at regular intervals to support staff and improve practice, enhancing the experience for the pupils.

Children are given the opportunity to give their feedback on a regular basis.

### **Appendix 1**

#### **Worship should –**

##### **a) Create mood/atmosphere through-**

- music
- computer images
- posters
- focal object/artefacts
- lighting/candles
- silence

##### **b) Evoke a response through-**

- asking questions
- share memories/experiences
- prayer - pupils to think of and share their own prayers relating to the bible story or theme/value

##### **c) Encourage active participation by the children-**

- offering own prayers
- participating in drama
- making or sharing music
- reading bible passages
- showing/offering their own work
- in planning and delivering Collective Worship through our use of Year 5&6 Worship Groups
- selecting songs and prayers etc appropriate to the themes
- in helping organising Collective Worship

##### **d) Encourage reflection- e.g.**

- Let us be still and quiet and see what God is saying to us about .....
- We will keep silent so that those who want to offer a prayer to God, can do so .....
- I will say a prayer, if you would like to join in/listen/think about .....
- During the hymn, it may be helpful to think about .....

##### **e) Use variety-**

- All of the above.



# St John's C of E Primary School, Lemsford



## Collective Worship Policy

### Procedure for exceptions:

#### **Withdrawal**

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Should any parent make such requests, appropriate arrangements will be made for the supervision of the children following consultation. Parents who have concerns about provision and practice of our Collective Worship are encouraged to contact the headteacher.