

Policy for Collective Worship



'Where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them.' Matthew 18:12

At Farncombe Church of England School we believe that collective worship plays a fundamental role in the life of the school. It is an opportunity to promote the Christian foundation of our school, to celebrate and support all aspects of school life and to provide time for stillness and reflection in a busy, active day.

We recognise that we have children from a variety of faith backgrounds, including those who have no faith background at all. Great care and sensitivity will be exercised in including and inviting these pupils.

We have defined collective worship as **'gathering together to learn about and praise God.'** The school vision of *'Let All You Do be Done in Love'* is recited in every assembly and further developed with children to show how their spiritual growth consists of three dimensions: upwards, outwards and inwards (love God, love your neighbours, love yourself). We aim for collective worship to be a transformational experience for all pupils.

Aims for Collective Worship

- ★ To provide the opportunity for pupils to learn about and worship God through the life and example of his son Jesus Christ.
- ★ To explore spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs
- ★ To promote a sense of common ethos and shared values
- ★ To help our pupils develop respect for and sensitivity towards the beliefs of others
- ★ To encourage participation and response through active involvement and listening
- ★ To help pupils understand the language and nature of worship

Our Statutory Obligations

The Education Reform Act 1988 states that 'All pupils in maintained schools should take part in a daily act of Collective Worship'. The religious foundation of our school is Church of England and the daily act of collective worship is delivered in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the Daily Act of Worship. A parent wishing to do so must write to the headteacher.

The daily act of Worship takes place in addition to any non-religious assembly, though the two activities often occur at the same gathering.

The Pattern of Collective Worship

Worship takes place each day at 10.10 and lasts for 20 minutes. The headteacher leads worship four days each week, with the fifth day being led by teachers individually with their classes.

Christian values and SEAL(Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) themes are used as the focus for each half term. Daily acts of worship link to these themes as well as to PSHE lessons. In addition to these themes, events in the Christian calendar are marked and celebrated.

'Let all you do be done in love' is our guiding vision for our speech, deeds and thoughts. This enables us to create a nurturing and inspiring environment in which everyone can have life in all its fullness.

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Values and PSHE Themes		
Autumn 1	Hope	New Beginnings
Autumn 2	Friendship	Getting On and Falling Out
Spring 1	Endurance	Good to be Me
Spring 2	Thankfulness	Relationships
Summer 1	Compassion	Going for Goals
Summer 2	Trust	Changes

The school's Christian vision and linked values drive the planning of collective worship and themes link into the biblical stories told. For example, during the relationships theme, the story of Joseph and his Brothers may be read and discussed. The headteacher plans the collective worship on a half termly grid. This details the overall focus, resources used and the music selected. This grid is available in the staffroom and is shared with governors.

In order to create an appropriate atmosphere the cross is displayed, a bible and a candle are displayed. A piece of music is chosen weekly and played each day for children to enter and leave the hall.

The lighting of a candle is used daily as a symbol to signify time for reflection and prayer. A song is sung at each assembly.

Day	Assembly
Monday	Biblical Assembly A character or story from the bible is selected to link in with the focus value or church calendar.
Tuesday	Singing Practice The songs are selected to help prepare for major festivals such as Christmas or Easter and to introduce children to new songs. Each new song is introduced and the relevance and meaning discussed.
Wednesday	Emotional and Moral Assembly The biblical story is expanded to link to PSHE themes, illustrations on relationships, moral choices and cultural understanding.
Thursday	Class Based Worship During the day each class participates in their own classroom act of worship.
Friday	Celebration Assembly Children's achievements are celebrated and inspiring events are discussed.

In addition to the daily acts of collective worship, the grace is sung before lunch and a prayer is said at the end of the day in each class. A very well supported and popular prayer area provides a constant invitation for practical prayer through the school day.

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Links with St John's Church

Our Collective Worship is strongly supported by St John's Church. The church is used regularly for services. Harvest and Christmas are celebrated there and the Year 2 Leavers service takes place in the church. Pupils occasionally participate in church services, joining the main congregation for Mothering Sunday and Harvest. The Reverend James Rattue leads an assembly in school each fortnight.

Elements of Worship

The following are used as felt appropriate.

- ★ Songs and music from a variety of cultures
- ★ Prayers – traditional, children's, silent, meditative
- ★ Reflection and Contemplation
- ★ Individual and group activity
- ★ Readings and sermons
- ★ Use of drama and dance
- ★ Artistic imagery
- ★ Variation in seating plans

Attitudes we Encourage

- ★ Sense of beauty, awe and wonder
- ★ Feelings of belonging
- ★ Respect for others
- ★ Sense of pride
- ★ Sense of pity and empathy
- ★ Sense of peace and thankfulness
- ★ Sense of shared sadness or loss
- ★ Sense of smallness in the face of the greatest of things
- ★ Sense of grandness in the face of the smallest of things
- ★ Sense of stillness in the midst of a busy experience

Our School Prayer

*This is our school
Help us to make it a happy place.
Help us to do our best and look after everyone and everything.
Amen*

We aim to use our prayer so that it reflects our daily life at school. It will be an integral part of many acts of worship. We hope to display it, live it, speak it, sing it, use it and be it!

There is also a prayer and call and response liturgy linked to each focus value. These are displayed on the school website, which has a page for each value.

Evaluation and Collective Worship Monitors

Each fortnight, Year 2 Collective Worship Monitors meet with the headteacher to use the school vision to:

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Lead: They plan how they will take a lead in worship (eg. Introducing a new prayer)

Observe: They observe assemblies each half term

Vote: Each half term there is the opportunity to vote on action

Evaluate: After observing assemblies, evaluations take place with changes made.

Policy agreed: Spring 2023

Policy to be reviewed: Spring 2026

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