



***Aim High...Fly High!***

Name of Policy	Collective Worship
Date last reviewed	March 2024
Date to be reviewed	March 2026
Governor Committee	Standards
Key Member of staff	Headteacher
Statutory	A policy is not statutory although collective worship is.

*Duxford Church of England Community Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and requires all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.*



## Collective Worship Policy

### Introduction

#### Our School Mission statement

To support our children, within a Christian setting, to reach their potential to grow into balanced individuals who can thrive in society.

'Encourage one another and build up one another' 1 Thessalonians 5:11

#### Our School Vision

**Attentive** to ourselves, to those around us and to our environment. We nurture and respect one another, recognise each other's uniqueness and ensure we value individuals, relationships and our environment.

**Imaginative** and respondent to a broad and balanced curriculum that offers memorable experiences to inspire the mind. We believe a rich and varied curriculum helps to enthral learners to be creative, independent thinkers; able to solve problems in the rapidly changing society in which we live.

**Motivated** for academic excellence and a life-long love of learning. By developing a strong growth mindset, including resilience and perseverance, we can respond flexibly and question the world and those around us. This allows us to challenge ourselves to be the best that we can be. We encourage our children to be courageous advocates.

**Spiritual** awareness and growth in an ethos underpinned by Christian values, supports wellbeing. We value this within our school, our families and within our wider community.

Collective Worship forms an important part of the life of Duxford Church of England Community Primary School. It provides opportunities to develop religious and moral awareness by celebrating both what God has done through Jesus Christ and what the pupils have achieved and experienced.

The aim at Duxford Church of England Community Primary School is that all children will live the values and vision of the School and will become well-organised, confident, self-motivated, outward looking and socially aware. This will be achieved through a planned programme of collective worship which is based on these values and vision.

As a Church of England school, Collective Worship takes place in accordance with the Christian faith and the Anglican tradition.

### Aims and Objectives

We, as a school, believe that good collective worship should, over a period of time:

- Enable children to explore and enjoy praise and prayer.
- Be a special time, enabling children and adults present to worship together in a distinctly spiritual atmosphere conducive to worship and to have an awareness of God's presence.
- Foster a spirit of belonging within the school.
- Provide a time to share and celebrate the successes and efforts of children's achievements providing an atmosphere that allows for spiritual reflection and response.

- Enable children to appreciate, explore and know how others worship God and why they worship in a particular way, thus fostering new insights and empathy about the life of faith of others.
- Provide an opportunity to worship together, thinking about the needs of others with care and sensitivity, fostering a concern for the needs of others regardless of race, colour or creed.
- Foster and value a search for faith to live by, providing an opportunity for children to celebrate, give thanks and share emotions such as love, joy, hope, friendship, acceptance, anguish, fear, reverence and forgiveness.
- Explore the big questions in life and respond to national events
- Develop the ability to listen and respond appropriately to a variety of speakers.
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- Reflect on the character of God and the teachings of Christ

Overall our aim is that collective worship will be ‘inclusive, invitational, and inspiring:’

• **Inclusive:** Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. In our Church school pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. Many pupils and staff in our school will come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, many pupils will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Pupils will be given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There is space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider.

• **Invitational:** Parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There is no compulsion to ‘do anything’. Rather, worship will provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults will always only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and will be invited to pray in their own way. Prayer will be accompanied by the option to reflect.

• **Inspiring:** Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter in our Church school to be inspirational. Worship should be formational and transformational: it should enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It should motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community’s behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, they should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

## Entitlement

Section 25 of the 1944 Act stated that all pupils attending a maintained school should take part in a daily act of Collective Worship. Section 6 of ERA provides for flexibility in timing and organisation of Collective Worship. It need no longer be held at the start of the school day. It may be a single act of worship for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age groups.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’, assemblies are normally based on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, collective worship is conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the School.

## **Organisation of Collective Worship**

The School holds a daily act of Collective Worship. This forms part of each morning assembly, which is a whole-school assembly. Collective Worship is conducted in a dignified and respectful way. Children understand that this is a period of reflection, regarded as a special time and that they should be thoughtful, listen carefully to the teachings and participate in singing. They must listen quietly to prayers and if they want to make the prayer their own they may say Amen at the end. An appropriate atmosphere is created by using music, candles and other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The Co-Head Teachers and other members of staff normally conduct collective worship, with weekly visits from local clergy and members of the church community who lead collective worship at that time. One gathering each week is usually led by the pupil Collective Worship group. Other representatives of local religious groups are also welcomed. GENR8 (a Christian drama group) regularly comes into School and leads collective worship on a Bible-based theme.

The themes of collective worship are taken from the School's values and vision, and traditions of the Christian faith. The themes often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Collective worship is planned as part of a series of themes, and children are an integral part of this planning process.

The collective worship on a Friday reflects the achievements and learning of the children. This offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of School. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the School, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

Collective worship is monitored by the school's Foundation Governors.

## **Parents' Right of Withdrawal**

We aim to ensure that collective worship is meaningful and relevant for all children and staff, for those with a faith background and those with none. Our school exerts no pressure on children to become worshipping Christians, or to participate in any activity that will compromise their own family faith or belief. However, Christian values are built into our ethos and are reflected in the themes of our worship. It is an expectation that all children will attend collective worship. Should parents wish to exercise their right to withdraw their child from collective worship, this is discussed with the Headteacher. Parents should inform the Headteacher if they wish to exercise this right. We aim to make all children and their parents feel that attendance does not compromise their own feelings and that collective worship is an important time when the school comes together as an "extended family".