



Collective Worship Policy 2021



Vision

'To nurture, educate and inspire all pupils to achieve their full potential as lifelong learners, thinkers and positive contributors to our global society.'

Our vision shapes all we do. Our vision reflects our commitment to John 10:10 – 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.' Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and in doing so, will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

About Worship

At Cannington C of E Primary School, worship is central to the life of school and helps us to explore and live our vision. It is so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils. Collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", is not relevant. Worship at Cannington C of E Primary School should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governing body have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the Headteacher.

The right of withdrawal

We appreciate there may be children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the Headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

Through discussion we would hope to understand;

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

Guiding Principles

Collective worship at Cannington C of E Primary School aims to:

- Be central to the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth.
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief

- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of during the day.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Policy Development

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included on the school website.

Organisation

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Leader	Deputy Head	Vicar	Staff/URC	Senior Leader	Headteacher Pupils
Theme	Star of the Week	Theme of the Week	Theme of the Week	Praise through Song	Awards Class Led Worship

Planning

Worship is planned using Roots and Fruits as our key document. Staff and local clergy are involved in the planning and delivery of worship based on a weekly theme and value. Children are supported to take various roles in class led assemblies and depending on their age, contribute to prayers, organisation and sharing of music. Worship reflects the Church year with key festivals being celebrated at our local church. Christian values underpin worship, are explored through biblical reference and related to everyday life and children's experiences through as wide a range of resources as possible. We provide opportunities for children to explore faith in today's world through our RE curriculum and especially through the resource

'Understanding Christianity'. Pupils and adults are encouraged to be still, to reflect and to use different forms of prayer.

Organisation

Collective worship takes place at the beginning of the day to enable our community to come together to focus on our Christian values and how these may shape our days positively. The hall is our chosen place for whole school worship. We use a central altar, drapes and a candle, use music and establish peace and calm to make the space and activity special. The liturgical colours of the year are displayed on our altar. Children are generally seated with their class peers facing the front of the hall in order to access words for collective singing.

Monitoring and evaluation

- The practical strategies used to monitor and evaluate the impact of worship
- Who is involved in monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship e.g children, staff, link/foundation governors, clergy
- Evidence to show how the monitoring and evaluation of worship has led to its strengthening and development over time

Disseminating the policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

Other Useful Documents: (can be found on the diocesan website)

- Guidance for visitors leading Collective Worship, including a code of conduct
- Example Visitors Leaflet about Collective Worship
- Collective Worship Planning Proformas
- Evaluation and Monitoring – Ideas and Systems
- Suggested Resources for Collective Worship
- Spirituality – What is it?

Date of last review:

Headteacher signed:

Date:

Chair of Governors signed:

Date:

Review Date of this Policy

Target Review Date	Date Agreed by Governing Body	Action Required	Signature
March 2021		Complete policy rewrite using Diocese Model policy to support process.	

**Cannington Church of England Primary School
Monitoring Collective Worship**

Area Monitored	Observation
Collective Worship forms part of the whole school development planning	
Collective Worship is distinct from areas of the curriculum, particularly RE, in all school documentation	
Training has been provided where appropriate	
The right climate for Collective Worship has been secured	
A policy document is in place and reflects current practice	
The legal requirements for Collective Worship are being met	
Those leading Collective Worship are aware of the resources available	
Collective Worship is well resourced	
Collective Worship is well planned	
All acts of Collective Worship are recorded	
A list of appropriate visiting speakers is available	
All Collective Worship documentation is understood and used by those concerned	
Governors are aware of all Collective Worship documentation, policy and practice	
The timing of Collective Worship in the school day is appropriate	
The duration of acts of Collective Worship are appropriate	

Cannington Church of England Primary School
Monitoring Collective Worship

Occasionally, acts of Collective Worship themselves should be monitored to ensure legal requirements are met and the school's policy is being implemented.

Area Monitored	Observation
The environment is conducive for Collective Worship	
The right atmosphere had been created and an appropriate focal point has been established	
Preparation was appropriate	
Attention had been given to the age, aptitude and background of pupils and was inclusive of the whole school community	
Content was appropriate to the theme	
The values promoted by the school were addressed	
The ethos of the school was enhanced	
Opportunities for worship were provided through personal reflection and or prayer	
There were opportunities for spiritual development	
Opportunities for moral, social and cultural development	
Pupil involvement	
Pupil Thoughts	
Leader Thoughts	
Observer Thoughts	

Date of Observation Observer.....