



Durweston CE VA Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Adopted by FGB: Summer 2019
Revised: Annually

Governors are mindful of their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and have screened this document to ensure compliance with the law.

Free the mind, nurture the Spirit, free the imagination!

The law requires the Head teacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of collective worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and foundation.

Our Trust Deed states that worship at Durweston must be:

'consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England'.

According to our Instrument of Government, our school:

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian Values through the experience it offers to all its pupils'

At Durweston, we believe that Collective Worship is central to the life of our school. It is, firstly, an opportunity for all members of our school community to come together to worship God and secondly, to celebrate all aspects of school life, expressing our thanks to God for the joy of being alive.

The Aims of our Collective Worship

- to be in accordance with the practice and traditions of the Church of England and according a special status to Jesus Christ
- to place ourselves in the presence of God and to help children and staff to see worship as being relevant to everyday life
- to enable a 'reaching out' towards God appropriate to the age and understanding of the children
- to lay foundations on which a mature understanding and practice of worship may be later developed
- to offer the children the opportunity to consider spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues and to explore their own beliefs
- to celebrate the achievements of the school community and all who belong in it, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of the children
- to help children to develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others regardless of age, gender, race or culture
- to discuss, explain and persuade our children to embrace our core values **of courage, compassion and joy** whilst also exploring other Christian values
- to discuss and explain the relevance of our biblical quote:
 - **'Stand true in what you believe. Be courageous, be strong. And do everything in love.' 1 Corinthians 16:13-14**
- to compare our Christian cycle of worship with the worship of other major faith traditions namely: Judaism, Hinduism and Islam

Our Approach

To achieve these aims, collective worship is planned to:

- be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the effect it has on their relationships and on the life of the school
- regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching
- have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide
- challenge all learners to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. Children should understand the value of prayer, reflection and stillness
- contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral social and cultural development by providing them with something more than the obvious; something to wonder at and something to respond to
- be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

Collective worship should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of a different faith.

Collective Worship offers an ideal opportunity to help explore with children the Fundamental British Values (as defined by OFSTED) of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

We would hope that all pupils take part in Collective Worship. However, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their child. Parents are invited to discuss such wishes with the Head Teacher before making a formal request.

Being a Voluntary Aided School, all teaching staff are expected to be sympathetic to the Christian Faith and may not withdraw from any Act of Worship.

Our Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is whole School worship three times a week, Big Questions/Philosophy for Children once a week and Celebration Assembly once a week.

From Jan 2020, worship will take place in the afternoons as follows:

Monday	2.07pm	Whole School Collective Worship
Tuesday	2.07pm	Whole School Collective Worship
Wednesday	2.07pm	Big Questions in class
Thursday	2.07pm	Whole School Collective Worship
Friday	10.10 a.m.	Whole School Celebration Assembly with class awards, Head Teacher awards, House points, celebration of attendance and 'proud', led by Worship Team and a member of staff

All children from yr1 to yr6 take part in Collective Worship. Starfish children (yrR) join us in the summer term. St Nicholas Church is used for whole school worship apart from Fridays, when we are in the school hall.

Planning for collective worship is taken from Roots and Fruits (www.imaginer.co.uk). 18 Christian values are explored in a 3 year programme. A termly collective worship plan is drawn up sharing the day, date, topic, and suggested song. At the end of the cycle of assemblies, we have a morning of class assemblies where the children reflect upon the assembly theme. These Reflections are recorded in a class reflection book

In addition to these acts of worship,:

- Belinda, our vicar leads a monthly assembly
- The parish Open the Book team visit once a month to share bible stories
- Mr Ian Carr, from the County Evangelism, team visits monthly
- Stephen Gilham, from the County Evangelism team, visits once a term

At certain times during the year, the school meets with the wider community to share worship either in the parish church of Durweston or Stourpaine. Parents, governors and the village communities come together to celebrate very special acts of worship:

- Harvest Festival including Handy Paws
- Two Christmas Nativities (EYFS and Lower KS1)
- A candle-lit Christmas Carol Service (KS2)
- Christingle
- Easter Communion
- Year 6 Leavers Assembly and Awards

We have a worship team made up of children from Porpoises class who lead Friday's assemblies. We have a worship box where we invite staff and children to add suggestions to stories or songs that they would like included in worship that term. We also have a Prayer box so that staff and children can contribute their own prayers. These are read out in Friday's assembly.

Resources:

Resources can be found in the Head Teacher's Office.

Monitoring

This policy is based on the sample policy written by the diocese. The governor with the Foundation and Ethos portfolio and the RE/SIAMS portfolio are responsible for monitoring Collective Worship at the school three times a year. The views of pupils are sought at the end of each unit during class Reflection assemblies and annually through a pupil survey.

NB Autumn 2019

*'Stand true in what you believe. Be courageous, be strong.
And do everything with love.' 1 Corinthians 16:13-14*