



Polehampton C. of E. Schools Federation

Collective Worship Policy

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2.0	12.10.17		4	

Polehampton C of E Schools Federation

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

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‘Through Inspiration, Faith and Love, we Learn Grow and Succeed’

Christian Distinctiveness

This policy should be implemented within the context of Polehampton Church of England Schools Federation vision, instrument of government, aims and values as a Church of England School. As Church of England Schools, we aim to provide a Christian environment which will help pupils to become aware of and reflect upon their own experiences and those of others and to discover meaning and value in such experiences which might reveal the love and presence of God.

Aims and Purpose

Our aims and purpose of Collective Worship are to

- provide children and adults with an opportunity to worship God.
- enable children to explore their own beliefs.
- allow whole school ethos and values to be affirmed and developed – see our cycle of Values – appendix 1
- introduce pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement and prayer.
- encourage, in children, a thoughtful and reflective attitude.
- help pupils experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness.
- provide an opportunity for calm reflection.
- provide an opportunity for children to consider the purpose and meaning of life.
- enable pupils to learn about and consider in depth Christian teaching, Christian festivals and biblical material and gain an understanding of those of other faiths.
- help pupils appreciate that we are ‘stewards’ of God’s world.
- enhance pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- help children distinguish between right and wrong.
- affirm pupils’ personal worth and responsibility.
- celebrate individual and collective achievements.
- develop a sense of community within the school.
- celebrate religious festivals and special occasions with specified worship.

About Collective Worship

- Collective Worship is a gathering of a ‘collection’ of people of diverse, religious, agnostic and non-religious backgrounds and does not pre-suppose any particular religious commitment.
- We note that Collective Worship and Assembly are not one and the same thing. They are, in essence, different from each other, but in practice they usually overlap.

Collective Worship Policy

- All maintained schools – including church schools – must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils.
- The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society.
- As Anglican Schools, we reflect the Anglican tradition of school worship. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
- Participation in prayer is invited, never imposed although we stress the need for stillness, reflection and respect for others

Organisation of Collective Worship

- A typical week's Collective Worship is as follows in both schools
 - Monday – lead by the Head
 - Tuesday - singing and hymn practice
 - Wednesday – a range of styles which include class teacher/visiting speaker/class-based worship/ Worship Leaders at the Junior School
 - Thursday – vicar assembly/class teacher/class assembly at the Infant School
 - Friday – celebration assembly
- Each half term, the worship explores a value from the cycle of values developed by staff and pupils – see Appendix 1
- The structure of assemblies may include music, a song of praise, a story or talk, a reading from the Bible, a period of reflection, a prayer, the Lord's Prayer, the school prayer and a reminder each day of the theme for the half term.
- The tone and atmosphere of Collective Worship will vary and reflect the experience being created by the leader of the assembly.
- Parents are encouraged to attend class-led acts of worship
- The schools worship together in church at the end of each term to celebrate Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year, as well as other special occasions during the year.
- Visitors and outside speakers are invited to lead our worship on a regular basis.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Collective Worship Co-ordinator

- To ensure that all staff are aware of and use the policy document.
- To plan an overall balanced programme of worship for the year.
- To draw up assembly rotas.
- To involve colleagues, pupils and visitors in worship.
- To advise on planning, ideas and resources.
- To be responsible for ordering, maintaining and displaying resources.
- To administer the budget for Collective Worship.
- To ensure that Collective Worship maintains a high profile in the School Development Plan.
- To monitor and evaluate, with others, Collective Worship in all its forms.
- To report to the Governing Body
- To arrange INSET for staff as required.

- To keep up to date with recent publications, attend Diocesan courses and disseminate information and feedback to staff.
- To liaise with the incumbent, governing body and Diocesan officers on matters relating to Collective Worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship

The Governing Body

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored by the Foundation Governors.
- The School Development Plan includes a section on Collective Worship which gives an indication of the intentions and arrangements for review.
- The School and Community Committee regularly review the schools' work in this area.

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator has responsibility for managing the worship on a day to day basis, ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with.

- Monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship is an on-going process so that this policy can be effectively reviewed. This includes
 - checking that practice matches aims and objectives.
 - observation of children's' attentiveness and level of interest.
 - classroom feedback from pupils, both written and verbal. The School Council could be involved in this process. We have also asked our "Listening Governor" to support us with this.
 - comments from parents, visitors and governors.
 - the extent of the influence upon pupils' attitude and behaviour throughout the school day.
 - Staff meetings are used for discussion and the update of information as and when necessary.

Inclusion, Equal Opportunities and the Right of Withdrawal

- All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience.
- Parents have the right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship. Parents do not have to explain or give a reason, but will be asked to put their views in writing for our records. The school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child.
- Staff may also withdraw from Collective Worship.