



Collective Worship Policy Cockfield CEVC Primary School

As a Church of England Voluntary Controlled school we define collective worship as worship that reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief.

We believe that collective worship should provide children with the opportunity to be part of a daily experience that is special and separate from other daily activities. We believe that collective worship has the potential to unite the school community.

Collective worship is part of Cockfield School's contribution to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child.

Aims

It is our aim at Cockfield School that collective worship should:

- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- Give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- Allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- Helps students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- Cockfield C.E.V C.P. School Collective Worship Policy provides a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

Statutory Requirements

Collective worship at Cockfield Primary School complies with the legal requirements as set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The law states that 'Collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character which means that it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief'. We recognise that collective worship

needs to be flexible enough to encompass the age, aptitude and background of all the children in the school.

Collective Worship and Assembly

Collective worship and assembly are not the same thing but it is usual for an act of worship to take place during an assembly. An assembly is a gathering of part or all of the school. It is concerned with administrative matters and other announcements about school life, although in practice it is more than that. It is of the utmost importance that collective worship is seen to be distinct from those parts of the assembly that are concerned solely with administration.

Every assembly incorporates an act of worship which aims to be inclusive, curricular and educational where all pupils are capable of responding. Children participate in various ways such as the lighting of a candle, writing and reading prayers.

Implementation

An act of Collective Worship is held daily. A range of people are encouraged to lead collective worship including the children. All teaching staff take an active role in leading worship. Governors, Open the Book, faith community members and other community groups are encouraged to be involved when and where appropriate, either by occasional participation or by specific invitation. A member of the clergy team from the Cockfield Benefice regularly leads collective worship in school and at St Peter's Church in Cockfield.

Collective Worship is an opportunity for the whole school to come together, although sometimes it takes the form of class or Key Stage worship. It is usually at Cockfield Church of England School, but on occasions it takes place at St Peters Church, for example at Easter and harvest. The assembly on Friday is a celebration assembly to recognise the achievements of groups and individuals. It is followed by an act of worship with time for reflective prayers. During the course of each term, we invite families and friends to attend a class or whole school assembly to celebrate our learning.

Our Christian Values

We introduce the children to worship and prayer, to God and Jesus, and to the seasons and traditions of a Christian community – in an age appropriate way. As a church school we provide children and staff an opportunity to come together, sing, pray, share their hopes, needs and provide time to reflect.

The community of our school has chosen the Christian values that are most important to them.

Friendship: We are kind and encourage one another and help our friends. The Parable of the Good Samaritan Luke 10:25 – 37 reminds us that friendship is a gift that should be shared with and offered to others freely and without reservation.

Perseverance: We don't give up when things look hard or tough. The Parable of the Mustard Seed Matthew 13: 31 – 32 tells us the tiny mustard seed grows large and becomes a source of food, rest and shelter. Jesus started growing the Kingdom of God with only a few disciples. Before long many more were added. With God, all things are possible. This reminds us that from small beginnings can grow something

amazing and powerful in its own way. We all have the capacity to grow and we should nurture and share our gifts

Compassion: We look after each other and share and think about how others feel. We can show that we are kind and caring by doing acts of kindness for anyone, friends, family or even people we don't know. We donate to charities. We aim to follow the example of Jesus and treat others as we would wish to be treated.

Live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. 1 Peter 3:8

Truthfulness: We try not to lie and be honest with our friends and teachers. John 18: 15-17 and 25-17 Peter was concerned about how the truth would affect him and so he denied being a friend and follower of Jesus. When he realised what he had done, he wept and was overcome with sadness. This reminds us that we should be truthful in our own lives, with ourselves and with others. It is important to think about how being untruthful will affect others and ourselves.

Respect: In school adults and children show respect for each other, their belongings and the environment. We recognise everyone's contribution is important and that everyone's feelings should be considered. We remember **the** Bible story Zacchaeus the Tax Collector and "to treat others as you would want them to treat you." (Matthew 7:12)

Creativity – we look after our world; we know how important it is to take steps to prevent Climate Change. We wear our Green Blue Peter badges with pride. Job 12:7-10 – "But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind." We strengthen links with parents by sharing with them the **Value in Focus** each term/or half term. Each term the children write their 'thanks' or thoughts/prayers and they also write prayers for assembly/class linked to that Value.

The Foundation governors and the Head teacher monitor Collective Worship at the school.

Withdrawal of Pupils from Collective Worship

We seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship but withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Head teacher. This right of withdrawal doesn't extend to assemblies. The Head teacher is not responsible for providing alternative worship but does ensure that children have adequate supervision. All teachers, including the Head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the Head teacher, should he or she wish to exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in the school.

British Values

The themes for Worship also reflect British Values, such as democracy, different forms of law, respect, combatting discrimination and making a positive contribution to society. Through Worship pupils are encouraged to understand and appreciate differences, including differences in religious belief and practice, sexuality, race, appearance, ability and cultural background and to recognise that all human beings are made in the image of God.

Open The Book

Open the Book is led by members of our local church, who prepare and lead a special assembly. The children take an active role on these occasions and will participate in making the picture for the story which originates from the Bible. The OTB team will visit regularly and at least three or four times a term.

Reflection areas

Reflection areas are located in each classroom, as well as in other communal areas of the school and grounds. Children have the opportunity to access reflection areas to give thanks or consider their actions and say sorry for doing the wrong thing. As well as having the opportunity for worship, children can use the reflection areas to focus on other everyday situations including: celebrating achievements, being mindful or calming down when they are upset or angry. Important festivals in the Christian Year may be marked with special reflection opportunities.

Cultural Capital

Through Collective Worship we can provide the children with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life. Our understanding of 'knowledge and cultural capital' is derived from the following wording in the national curriculum:

'It is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.'

We will provide the children with occasions to hear, experience, learn about famous persons, places, music, inventions, art, and we will link these learning opportunities to Our Values.

Equal Opportunities and Special Needs

The staff and Governors are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from collective worship, whatever their gender, ethnicity, physical or mental abilities. Every attempt is made, therefore, to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests and reflect the multicultural society we live in.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Evaluation strategies currently used by staff for assessing outcomes of collective worship are:

- Observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest shown during the sessions
- Feedback from pupils
- Parents' comments, written and verbal
- Observation of the children's general behaviour in and around the School and towards one another
- Comments made by visitors to the school

Signed _____ Headteacher

Signed _____ Chair of Governors

Date _____

Review Date September 2025 or as needs dictate