



# Collective Worship Policy

July 2023

Signed: .....Chair of Governors  
..... Headteacher

Next review: July 2026



# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

This policy is carried out within the context of the school's Mission Statement.

- To provide high standards by setting challenging learning goals, through parents and teaching staff working together.
- To provide a healthy and safe environment in which we, as a school community, can work and play happily together.
- To encourage everyone to develop their skills and enable them to make a positive contribution to the society and environment in which they live.
- To ensure that both Christian and British values are promoted within the school in partnership with parents and our wider school community.
- To encourage pupils' respect, compassion, resilience, hope, integrity and humility (our School Values).
- To stimulate a sense of curiosity and excitement about the world and to encourage children to search for truth, meaning and a purpose in life.
- To promote self-esteem by celebrating effort and success, helping each child to gain a sense of achievement through their learning.

## **Definitions**

"Collective Worship is a gathering of people of diverse, religious, agnostic and non-religious backgrounds and does not pre-suppose any particular religious commitment."

"Worship in school should encourage a sense of awe and wonder and foster a respect for the world and its peoples."

Collective Worship at Chesterton CE Primary School enables the school, as a whole, to experience the mystery and wonder of life and the world. It promotes spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and involves both children and adults in responding to wonder, awe, mystery, celebration, reverence, reflection, fellowship, awareness, thanksgiving and praise. The worship is mainly Anglican, but children from non-Christian families have the opportunity to reflect or worship in their own way.

We note that Collective Worship and Assembly are not the same thing - School Assembly is a gathering of the school community; it is often used to celebrate and focus on the life and values of the community itself.

## **Aims**

- To encourage a sense of awe and wonder, fostering a respect for the world, its peoples and their faiths.
- To create an atmosphere in which those who wish to can pray, reflect or meditate to worship God.
- To develop a sense of fellowship and community by bringing everyone together and encouraging active participation wherever possible.
- To encourage many forms of communication and expression including music, singing, prayer, rituals, story, poems, drama, dance etc.

- To enable children to learn from Christianity and other faiths in a way that promotes their spiritual, moral, spiritual and cultural development (SMSC) and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

## **The Legal Requirements**

The Education Reform Act 1988 requires “the arrangements for the collective act of worship be made by the governors after consultation with the Headteacher”. The act specifies that: “All pupils in attendance shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship” unless parents request that they are excused. We wish to encourage all the children and staff to take part in collective worship by providing an opportunity to assemble each day, which is central to the life of the school.

## **British Values**

At Chesterton, the British Values of: Individual Liberty, Rule of Law, Respect & Tolerance and Democracy permeate the curriculum and are reinforced at appropriate opportunities during the school day and the school year.

## **Guidelines**

Chesterton Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided school. We use the village church, St. Mary’s, for occasional acts of Collective Worship and for Religious Education. At all other times, Collective Worship takes place in school, either in the school hall, in classrooms or outside on the field. The school has pupils from a variety of religious or non-religious backgrounds and the staff are sensitive to the needs of children from different faiths. It is the governors’ intention that acts of worship should provide the opportunity for sharing and celebration between pupils of all backgrounds.

## **Organisation**

1. Monitors from among the older children will set up the hall with benches to be ready for Collective Worship to begin.
2. Each Collective Worship will start with music playing as the children walk in class by class. Once in the hall, pupils are expected to be silent and respectful.
3. A representative from each class will bring an object from their class Worship Table.
4. The person leading will greet the children with ‘God is love, all the time; all the time, God is love’ and welcome any visitors.
5. Members of the Collective Worship Council will come to the front and initiate the gathering song and light a three-wick candle. Everyone joins in with the gathering song “Like a Candle Flame”. This should be a reverent time and a signal to the children that this is special time.
6. At some point during Collective Worship, there will often be a song. If possible, the song will have some connection to the theme. We use a digital projector and screen for the words. The songs chosen are carefully selected from a variety of sources, including YouTube, BBC Schools, Come and Praise or one of the “Out of the Ark” books. Singing will be accompanied by backing tracks unless there is a piano player in school.

7. The main body of the Collective Worship will vary from day to day (see below) but there will always be an aspect of children's participation.

8. Collective Worship will finish with a prayer or, at times, a period of reflection. It is usual that a short prayer is spoken by the leader. There are also prayers (e.g. the Lord's Prayer / class prayer), said regularly by the children so they begin to know them by heart. There may also be a moment of quiet, personal reflection linked to the content of the Collective Worship. This may happen before or after the prayer.

9. Any notices or announcements should be kept to a minimum and at the very end. They do not form part of the Collective Worship.

10. At the end of Collective Worship, there will be a moment of quiet while the Collective Worship Council members snuff out the candle. They will lead with the words: 'God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit', which everyone will join in with.

10. Music is played as the classes walk out silently. The adults in the hall will signal to each class when it is their turn to stand up and leave.

11. Monitors will wait until the last of their class has left the hall before returning the hall back to normal.

12. Reception pupils will build up their attendance to whole school collective worship and, after the first term, they will attend all worships.

**The weekly pattern is as follows:**

<b>Day and Time</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Led by</b>
Monday 10.30 am	Class Collective Worship	Class Teacher
Tuesday 10.30 am	Whole school	Church
Wednesday 10.30 am	Whole school (Singing)	On a rota basis
Thursday 10.30 am	Whole School	Headteacher / Assistant Headteacher
Friday 2.30/2.45 pm	Class Sharing/ Celebration *	Headteacher

\* Children from each class have the opportunity to participate in either a sharing or community worship, giving them the opportunity to show the rest of the school examples of their work. We also give out certificates to children who have made significant effort or progress in work, attitude or behaviour, as well as any awards.

From time to time, classes plan and deliver acts of worship that fit in with the current theme or reflect work in class.

Collective Worship, is part of the whole school curriculum and is educational for all members of the school community as follows:

- A basic framework is provided by the cycle of Christian year including Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and saints' days.
- Collective Worship is planned into six termly blocks to reflect our whole-school values, and then divided into weekly themes that link into each value.

- There will be opportunities to celebrate and study other faith festivals (e.g. Jewish New Year, Ramadan, Eid, Diwali, Chinese New Year etc.)
- In addition, there are whole school celebrations, some of which take place in the Church, for Harvest, Christmas and Easter.
- Collective Worship will include the exploration of silence through stillness and meditation. There will be Christian prayers, although children are given a choice whether to say them. Hymns and songs are chosen from a collection that the children know and are linked to the main theme of the Collective Worship where possible. The Bible and other holy books can be used for drama and story, for providing opportunities for reflection and deeper understanding. Collective Worship starts and ends with music.
- Collective Worship will usually involve the whole school meeting together in the school hall, giving children an opportunity to learn how to behave in large social gatherings, how to perform in front of an audience and respond to such a performance.

### **Resources.**

Resources for Collective Worship are kept in the Headteacher's office.

### **Record Keeping and evaluation**

The teacher with responsibility for Collective Worship will review and evaluate Collective Worship with Foundation Governors as part of the whole school monitoring schedule.