

**Langley Fitzurse C of E Primary
School**



**Amaze, Excite and Inspire
Let us help each other to love others
and do good. Hebrews 10:24**

Langley Fitzurse C of E School Collective Worship Policy

Policy and Procedure: Collective Worship Policy

Date of Approval: October 2020, Updated September 21, updated Apr 23

Review date: Apr 24

Our vision and purpose is to 'Amaze, Excite and Inspire' a confident, happy and resilient school community. To be an inclusive, church school where everyone can be the best God has made them to be.

Introduction

Langley Fitzurse is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School and as such has a Christian tradition and ethos which are supported by all staff and governors. Our Collective Worship reflects and reinforces the school's vision, aims and ethos, the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and follows the Christian liturgical year. Our Collective Worship both implicitly, and explicitly, demonstrates our Christian values of **friendship, respect, truthfulness, forgiveness, perseverance, and service**. At Langley Fitzurse School we consider Collective Worship to be an important part of the school day when we come together as the whole school community. It also provides occasions to contribute to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of pupils and staff. It is attended by all pupils, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

What is Collective Worship?

Legislation requires all schools to conduct daily acts of Collective Worship (*see Appendix 5 - Legal Requirements*), however, the legislation does not define what is meant by the term 'Collective Worship'. Corporate worship assumes a shared set of beliefs and values, i.e. a worshipping congregation meeting on a Sunday. By contrast, Collective Worship can make no such assumption that every person holds the same beliefs and values. Whilst Collective Worship is an essential core element of our church school life, it is also a voluntary act. Worship is an open invitation, but it is for pupils – and staff – to use that opportunity if they feel comfortable doing so: there is no compulsion to worship, and this is made clear to all who lead acts of Collective Worship, including visitors (*see Appendix 2 – Guidance to Visitors*)

However, we believe being part of a church school community offers unique opportunities for pupils to encounter the Christian faith as a lived expression of faith through Collective Worship.

The Aims of Collective Worship

In line with the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) framework, we aim for our Collective Worship to:

- a) Be a daily expression of our school's Christian vision.
- b) Be inclusive, invitational and inspiring for all pupils, staff and parents and visitors
- c) Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- d) Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- e) Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- f) Enable pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.

g) Encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for Collective Worship.

The Value of Collective Worship

As a church school we provide opportunities to:

- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar (*see Appendix 4 – Calendar*)

Meeting together also strengthens a sense of belonging to our school family, to the local community and church, and to the world in which we live. Therefore, our Collective Worship is important because it:

- Offers communal space for the whole school community to learn, grow and celebrate, sharing each other's joys and challenges
- Provides the opportunity for stillness and personal reflection on the big questions of life
- Nurtures all aspects of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, especially spiritual awareness
- Responds to national events, topical or local issues in a flexible and sensitive way
- Offers opportunities to develop understanding of diverse faiths and cultures, so contributing to the promotion of fundamental values.
- Enables us to meet and engage with the local community through visitors.
- Provides chances for pupils and staff to develop their own abilities in preparing, presenting, or evaluating assemblies.

Collective Worship is an educational opportunity with clear objectives for spiritual development and wider SMSC awareness. So, this time can be used to encourage pupils to:

- Show interest and concern for members of the school and wider community
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world, exploring feelings and emotions
- Share appreciation of projects and experiences undertaken by groups within the school
- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, shown by religions and society
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life – celebration, wonder, beauty, joy, humour, tragedy, sorrow etc.
- Reflect on the way humans reflect spiritual feelings through the arts, science, religion and service.
- Enjoy stillness and quiet, taking a break from the busyness of life
- Learn how to present in front of an audience

INCLUSIVE

We want our acts of Collective Worship to:

- Recognise and respect the diversity of cultures, lifestyles, and religions, which exist in our multicultural society. However, as a church school our acts of Collective Worship will be wholly or mainly of a Christian character.

- Have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued, affirmed, and safe.
- Be suitable for every child to attend unless withdrawn by their parents/guardians.
- Focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to pupils.
- Include active participation by pupils, parents, and members of the local community – either in preparation or in performance. Parents and carers will be invited to share in those which focus on celebration and learning, as well as church services.
- Enable all who attend to benefit and be involved without compromising their beliefs, by allowing individuals to choose their own participation when the things we believe as a church school are said, sung or prayed

To ensure our acts of worship are open and welcoming to everyone, we ask those who lead prayer to follow this guidance:

- ✓ Words introducing prayer should be an invitation, not an instruction
- ✓ Spoken prayers should be grounded in the Christian tradition and owned by the speaker
- ✓ The use of silence may give space for prayer or reflection or both
- ✓ There is no expectation that pupils will pray, but we do expect everyone to be still and listen even if not participating in the prayer

INSPIRING

We want our acts of Collective Worship to be:

- Relevant, enjoyable, creative, imaginative, and fun (*see Appendix 6 – Resources*)
- Engaging – using story, liturgy, reflection, prayer, song, action, drama, etc.
- A way of experiencing different worship traditions, reflecting the global nature of the Christian faith
- An encounter offering a variety of personal spiritual styles, ways of communicating and responding, including the use of IT
- An exploration of different ways of responding – including artwork, music, silence and social action
- Rooted in the Bible and teachings of Jesus, inspired by role models past & present

INTENTIONAL

Collective Worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, training, resourcing and evaluation.

The person responsible for co-ordinating Collective Worship is James Osler

Planning is vital to ensure that Collective Worship is:

- Distinctive from other classroom activities, retaining a sense of occasion and togetherness (*see Appendix 3 – Pattern of Collective Worship*)
- Thoughtfully delivered in an age appropriate manner
- An educational and inspirational experience
- Participatory – inviting pupils to join in as often as possible
- Rooted in the Anglican Christian faith (*see Appendix 1 – The Anglican Tradition*)

Evaluation is an integral part of the process to improve the quality of worship.

Our school regularly evaluates acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves the headteacher gaining feedback from staff, the Worship Council, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop this key aspect of school life. This is then reviewed by the Christian Distinctiveness subcommittee. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through regular questionnaires.

An Annual Review by the headteacher takes place to ensure Collective Worship complies with statutory requirements and any new legislation. Any necessary actions will be agreed by the Christian Distinctiveness subcommittee and included in the School Improvement Plan.

Monitoring is a key role of the foundation governors to ensure that:

- Daily worship takes place,
- The Trust deeds are upheld
- Links with the local church and community are maintained
- Pupils and staff are involved
- Resources are available to support and develop Collective Worship

Expectations of pupils

Pupils are regularly given opportunities to plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis. They will be supported by a member of staff to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers.

Every year pupils from KS2 may volunteer to be part of the Worship Council. They will meet at least once a term with the head teacher and a member of the Draycot church team to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of Langley Fitzurse as a church school, and to explore creative ways of communicating and strengthening the Christian ethos.

Expectations of Visitors

The school enjoys welcoming a wide variety of people to share with pupils. Visitors may only lead Collective Worship by invitation, having agreed with the guidance leaflet (*see Appendix 2*) Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship and should not speak about raising money for any particular cause without prior permission of the head teacher.

Parental Withdrawal

Parents are made aware that Langley Fitzurse School is a Church of England School and as such Collective Worship is a special time for the school community, and is based upon the foundations and principles of the Anglican tradition (*see Church School leaflet on school website*). It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none. However, parents have a statutory right to withdraw their child from attending religious worship, and the school has the responsibility to provide an alternative activity and supervision for this pupil (*see Appendix 5 – Legal Requirements*). Parents are requested to discuss this with the head teacher first, and then put their request in writing, so that the school can put appropriate alternative arrangements in place.

Appendices

1) The Anglican Christian Tradition

In all church schools the act of worship must be in accordance with the school's trust deed, which means following the principles and practices of the Church of England.

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection
- Using Psalms with simple responses – Taizé style
- Using Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and end of worship

2) Guidance to visitors leading Collective Worship

The following leaflet is given to all visitors leading in Collective Worship – see attached

3) **Pattern of Collective Worship**

Each person leading worship is expected to plan their act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. This should ensure variety and prevent duplication/repetition.

We meet:

Monday – Whole School – Headteacher at 10.15am

Tuesday – Whole School – Singing – Head of School at 2.45pm

Wednesday – Whole School – Values - Class teacher rotation at 2.45pm

Thursday – Whole School – Current News - Class teacher rotation at 2.45pm

Friday – Whole School – Celebration - Head of School at 10.15am

Our worship should include:

- *Gathering* – we come together as a community, (*music, lighting a candle, opening words*)
- *Engaging* – we introduce and share the topic, (*a Bible story, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message*)
- *Responding* – what does that mean for me? (*discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing*)
- *Sending* – we share the message again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. (*Final prayer, closing words, music and blowing out the candle*)

Opening words

We have gathered together in the name of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit to worship together and think about our [value/focus]

Closing words

We go in peace, we go in joy, we go in love, showing [value]

Prayers that are regularly included are: The Lord's Prayer, our school prayer, prayers for St Peter's Church and for the school community.

Adapting for COVID 19

During the periods of restriction due to COVID 19, worship is being offered in different ways:

- During lock down, written reflection and prayer activities were provided by the Draycot church team, and shared in school and through school newsletters
- Daily worship takes place in each class and is recorded in a class scrapbook. This is monitored by the head teacher and members of the Worship Council. Worship resources are provided by the Draycot church team for use in class.

4) Calendar

The acts of Collective Worship generally follow themes that are aligned to our school values (friendship, respect, truthfulness, forgiveness, perseverance and service) and include a recognition of the church's year and make space for other national or significant events

Term	Value	Church Season	Liturgical colour	Special Days
1	Friendship	Season of Creation	Green	Back to School with God Harvest
2	Respect	Advent Christmas	Purple White	Remembrance
3	Truthfulness	Lent	Green/purple	Christingle for Candlemas
4	Forgiveness	Easter	White	Easter
5	Perseverance	Pentecost	Red Green	Thy Kingdom Come
6	Service	Ordinary Time	Green	St Peter's Day – 29 June Leavers' Farewell

5) Legal Requirements

The legal requirements of collective worship in Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools are determined by the Education Reform Act 1988, and can be summarized as:

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdraw) must on 'each school day take part in an act of collective worship'
- Collective Worship must be conducted in accordance with the provision of the Trust Deeds of the school and Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England
- The Governing Body should ensure that all pupils **each day** engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship which is in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church
- Arrangements for collective worship, in foundation schools of a religious character, are the responsibility of the Governing Body, after consulting with the Headteacher (*DfE Circular 1/94 para 52 & 53*)
- All acts of worship in Church schools must be Christian in character (based on Biblical teachings)
- There is no need for an act of collective worship to include the whole school all at once. It may be through year groups, classes, key stages or in any combination.
- Collective Worship may take place at any time during the school day and should normally be on school premises.
- Collective Worship must be appropriate to the age, aptitude, and family background of pupils.
- Details of arrangements for collective worship, including the policy, must be documented and available to the public.

6) Useful Resources

The following websites offer useful resources.

Assemblies.org <http://www.assemblies.org.uk/>

Collective worship for many occasions for primary and secondary.

Barnabas in Schools www.barnabasinschools.org.uk

Ideas for collective worship, mainly through drama and storytelling. Use the search bar to find what you need.

Brick Testament Lego Bible www.thebricktestament.com/home.html

Lots of Bible stories told using Lego. NB. Some school firewalls prevent access to this site. It's also advisable to check the content before you use it, some stories are quite graphic!

BBC Faith photographs www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-30081784

Some interesting photographs on the theme of faith

BBC Radio Collective worship

Something to think about age 4-7 and Together age 7-11 With teacher notes

BBC Assemblies

A collection of video and audio clips suitable for KS1 and KS2 Collective Worship

Flame Children's Ministries www.flamecreativekids.blogspot.co.uk

Ideas for reflective prayer areas.

Flippin' Praise <http://www.cofesuffolk.org/>

Free Bible Images <http://www.freebibleimages.org/>

Pictures in both drawn and photographic form to go with most Bible stories.

Image bank www.imagebank.org.uk

Photographs and graphics with Christian themes for free download

Jack in the box worship <https://www.imaginer.co.uk/jack-box-worship/>

Prayer Spaces in Schools www.prayerspacesinschools.com

Roots and Fruits <https://www.imaginer.co.uk/roots-fruits/>

The Stapleford Centre www.stapleford-centre.org resources

Including Wisdom of Worship and Cracking Assemblies by Margaret Cooling

Worship Workshop www.worshipworkshop.org.uk

A Church of England resource to help you build a collective worship. Ideas for liturgy as well as music and words for hymns