

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Document Summary

Staff Lead:	Lydia Adams
Link Governor:	Ben Thompson
Version Number:	V5
Document Status:	Approved
Date Last Approved:	March 2024
Date of Next Review:	March 2026
Frequency of Review:	2 Years
Model Policy?	No
Statutory Policy?	No
On School Website?	Yes

FYI: Version control should be used for all formal documents and managed as:-

- ▶ 0.1 (1st draft version)
- ▶ 0.2 (2nd draft and so on..... 0.3. 0.4 etc)
- ▶ 1.0 (Once document has been approved)
- ▶ 1.2 (during review/approval of a lifecycle document i.e. policies)
- ▶ 2.0 (2nd approved document) and so on.

Amendment History

Version	Amendment Date	Author	Amendment Summary
V1.0	25/1/17	Mo Jones	Reformatting Only
V1.1	14/3/17	Rosie Brydon	For review by School Improvement Committee
V2.0	28/4/17	Ruth Owen	Removing comments for final release
V3.0	13/06/17	Mo Jones	Changes to website "yes" as requested by RB
V3.1	24/04/19	Ruth Owen	Updating front sheet following GP & HC's review
V4.0	01/05/19	Ruth Owen	Updates made following approval

V4.1	23/11/22	Ruth Owen	Front sheet updated to show link Governor and model policy fields
V4.2	28/11/22	Lydia Adams	Due for review
V4.3	13/03/24	Lydia Adams & Father Ben	Checked that policy is still current – amended the Christian Vision in paragraph 1
V5.0	24/04/24	Ruth Owen	Final formatting following approval at FGB

Rationale

At Frampton Cotterell CofE Primary School our Collective Worship Policy is informed and underpinned by our school vision to "enable all members of our school community to **become the best we can**, by being an **inclusive, vibrant, aspirational school**". This is rooted in James Martin's (SJ) theology that life is about becoming our best selves through an ongoing process of transformation."

School worship is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian values and ethos of the school. Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and will reflect the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. This will include belief in God the source of life, Jesus who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection and the Holy Spirit who makes the presence of Jesus known in the world.

Aims and objectives

Through collective worship in our school we aim to:-

- provide an experience of worship that will allow children to respond to the presence and peace of God
- celebrate the gifts that each child brings to our school community recognising the uniqueness of each individual loved by God
- enable children to consider spiritual and moral questions and issues and explore and develop their own beliefs
- foster a concern for others within the school and wider world
- respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around them and be aware of our responsibility for it
- strengthen and support the school community giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of our school
- introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year
- encourage participation and response, and to introduce children to some well-known Christian prayers, hymns and Bible stories.

Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in a service.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our services on the teachings of Jesus and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our services in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold services that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship. Each week there are 3 days Whole School Service, 1 day whole school singing and 1 day Class Worship.

We conduct services in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that service time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere through music, and a prayer table displaying the Bible and a cross to focus the attention of the children. Three candles are lit at the start of the service to represent God the Holy Trinity.

The whole school services are normally conducted by the headteacher or other members of staff, with associated clergy visiting once a week. They are also sometimes led by pupils, or other representatives of local religious groups.

We take the themes of our services from the traditions of the Christian faith and its values, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our services are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our services well in advance of the day they take place choosing a different value to focus on each term. However, when appropriate, planned services are changed in order to address something relevant or topical.

Our services reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the services by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Services provide an opportunity to praise children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised.

Each year every class in school will take a class service to which parents are invited. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements. This also enables parents to have a clear understanding of how our Christian values underpin and impact on all aspects of school life.

Governors' attendance at our services is always welcome.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend services. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the service. Parents and carers do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Headteacher keeps a record of all children whose parents have withdrawn them from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

Worship is monitored and evaluated by the Collective Worship Coordinator or worship team, primarily through pupil conferencing and response surveys.

Monitoring of the Policy and Practice of collective worship is the role of a named school governor. The governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher or Collective Worship Coordinator before reporting to the governors.