

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Document Summary

Staff Lead:	Lydia Adams
Link Governor:	Colin Walker
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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
V5.1	12/05/26	Lydia Adams	Due for review, added appendix 1 Guidelines for Collective Worship
V6.0	23/09/26	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.

Governors' attendance at our services is always welcome.

We distribute guidelines for leading Collective Worship at Frampton, to all those who will be leading worship (Appendix 1).

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.

Appendix 1

Guidelines for Collective Worship at FCCE

Thank you for leading Collective Worship at FCCE.

At FCCE our vision is to be an **inclusive, vibrant** and **aspirational** school as we enable all members of our school community to **become the best we can**. We aim for our Collective Worship to reflect this, and to be **invitational, inclusive** and **inspirational**.

At FCCE, being **invitational** means children are encouraged to participate, including asking and answering questions, joining in with singing a song, coming to the front to hold something up or act out a part of a story, as well as offering for the children to make a prayer their own by saying 'Amen' at the end.

At FCCE, being **inclusive** means explaining any terminology that the children may be unfamiliar with, ensuring younger children can stay involved by using visuals and adding actions to songs to make them memorable. Being inclusive could also mean sometimes including stories or people from outside of Christianity to illustrate a teaching point.

At FCCE, being **inspirational** means encouraging the children to hope, dream and behave in a way that is **aspirational** and demonstrates our Christian values of **thankfulness, hope, honesty, forgiveness, service and justice**.

If you have a PowerPoint to use in Collective Worship, please email this to the school office beforehand, so that a member of staff can have it up and ready on the screen before the children come into the Hall for Collective Worship. We recommend including pictures in PowerPoints, in addition to any words, so that our youngest children, who are learning to read, can be included in the worship.

Please expect children to enter and exit the Hall **silently**, to sit with their **legs crossed** and to remain **quiet and listening** during Collective Worship. You can remind the children of our school rules: to be **ready**, to be **respectful** and to be **safe**. As they enter, one child from each class will bring a candle into Collective Worship, which they will place on a table at the front of the Hall.

Please **begin** Collective Worship by lighting candles at the front of the Hall, as the children all join in saying, *"As we light the candles we remember God the Father, Jesus the Light of the World and the Holy Spirit who helps us and guides us."*

If you are leading a song, please expect the children to stand before the song, and sit down again after the song, **in silence** (or they can remain seated to sing). Remind the children of our school rules: to be **ready**, to be **respectful** and to be **safe**.

Please **end** Collective Worship by extinguishing the candles at the front of the Hall, as the children all join in saying, *"As we blow out the candles let us think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds."* (Our school Bible verse – Hebrews 10:24, ICB version). Then you need to dismiss the children from the Hall class by class. As the children leave, those who brought candles in will collect them from the front table and take them back to class.

If you need any support at any point during Collective Worship, please feel free to ask a member of staff to help. There will always be staff available to support with encouraging the children to follow our school rules and remain quiet and respectful during Collective Worship.

If you would like a member of staff to start and/or end the Collective Worship or lead the children in saying our greeting or ending phrase, that is fine – please do ask for this to happen.