Inspiring Learners, Growing Together

Castlethorpe First School - North Crawley CE School - Sherington CE School - Stoke Goldington CE School
St Andrews CE Infant School - Newton Blossomville CE School

Collective Worship Policy

The Village Schools Federation aspires to nurture and inspire every child to experience life in all its fullness. Our schools are rooted in inclusive Christian values to enable all to flourish by building knowledge, confidence and resilience for the future.
We strive to be the best we can be. "Whatever we do, we work at it with all our heart"
Colossians 3:23

Introduction

Collective worship is the heartbeat to the daily rhythm of life in our schools, worship offers the children and all in our school an opportunity to consider, familiarise and reflect on the stories of the Christian faith. We come together as an expression of our vision and ethos with the aim to be transformed in our relationships toward one another and the world around us. We warmly invite all members of our school communities to join our worship.

Our collective worship provides children and staff the opportunity to:

- Celebrate and participate in elements of the liturgical church year which includes-
    - Christian seasons and festivals
    - school values
    - personal growth
- Develop an understanding of prayer
- Develop a reflective attitude to life through including time and space for spirituality and deeper questioning
- Experience a variety of styles of worship including prayer
- Participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship
- Know they are individually valued, encouraged and affirmed

Worship will reflect aspects of the wider curriculum and in particular will:

- Nurture spiritual growth
- Consider their lives through the lens of our Christian values
- Introduce children to importance of faith in the lives of people today and those who serve others in humility
- Encourage children to explore values drawn from other religious traditions
- Reflect on the stories that Jesus told and the life he lived

The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place in school, in the local church, in their local community and in the outdoors. We follow the seasons and festivals of the Church year alongside other special days of celebration. These always include Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany tide, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Easter and Pentecost and other important days in the calendar such as saint days, the start of a new school year and the Leavers' Service.

Leading worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school, the local church community and from charities such as Bridgebuilder Trust. Pupils are given opportunities to participate in worship through volunteering information, story-telling, singing and offering prayers.

Planning Collective Worship

Collective worship is carefully planned to link the content with the children's experience. Leaders plan worship to be relevant to the church season and life in school guided by Roots and Fruits. Throughout their time at our school children will experience a wide variety of worship styles such as dance and drama alongside more traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song.

Prayer is a core part of our worship. It is introduced in different forms including thoughts, words, images and music to invite children to engage. Our prayers are addressed to God reflecting the traditions of the Christian faith recognising that this also includes silence.

We regularly review our worship through discussions with the children, observation and reflection. Our evaluations inform our planning and practice.

A legal note

By law, Collective Worship must:

- Be provided for every child every day;
- Reflect the school's Trust Deed.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the Executive Headteacher.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring will be completed by Governors and senior leaders to ensure the essence of this policy is delivered consistently and with integrity upholding the vison and values of the federation.

Reviewed:	January 2026
Approved by Governors:	January 2026
Next Review:	January 2027

Collective Worship/ Assembly Weekly Cycle
***Focus day may change according to school timetable**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Focus	**Value Worship**	**Story/ Theme Worship** (Multi-cultural/ Multi-faith/ Celebration days)	**Singing Assembly**	**Visual Worship/ Reflection/Spirituality Time**	**Celebration Assembly**
Notes/ideas	• Start the week with the value • Use the Roots and Fruits/ Oscar Out of the Box resources • Encourage children to suggest stories that embody values, ask them to share what these might be • Reflect on where values have been seen in the life of the school: … in the life of the local community … in the news • Don't forget to link the values to the school vision	• Responses can vary according to the season • The story/ information can be shared in a variety of ways, reading, drama, video, audio • Build a collect based on the story – if children become confident with the collect form (see Developmental Prayer File) they can become pretty adept at improvising them! • Resist the temptation to turn the occasion into a quiz • Ask the children what the story/ information means to them – reflect on the answers. Again, resist the temptation to find	• Sing a range of songs, some of which are well known • Children can choose favourites • Only teach one or two new songs • Sing something seasonal • Ask a child to choose a favourite verse and say why they like it – pause for a brief silent reflection afterwards • Close with a short prayer/ thank you/ thought	• A range of images, or a video clip can be used to engage children • Nature or still life can be used • As with the story children can share how the images make them feel • This is very suitable for reflection on creation or charitable concerns • A short story/ poem might be appropriate	• An opportunity to celebrate our gifts within the community • Still begin and end with the responses as on other days • Celebration of abilities and skills is a way of recognising each of us as a 'child of God' SIAMS p 29 • A good occasion on which to use the Lord's Prayer – particularly if parents are present, it is a prayer known to many • Use thanksgiving prayers for the gifts that we have been given

		the meaning. Older children can be prompted to discuss why they think a story or passage means something or is important			
Led by					