

Lockington CE VC Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Date Policy Formally Agreed By Governors:	20 th April 2023
Date Policy Becomes Effective:	20 th April 2023
Review Date:	Summer Term 2026
Person Responsible for Implementation and Monitoring:	Collective Worship Leader

Rational

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctiveness of our school. It reaffirms our vision, rooted in the teachings of Jesus:

‘Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven’ (Matthew 5:16).

It reinforces the school values of compassion, creativity and perseverance and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community.

Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and recognises and follows the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of collective worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

In Church of England schools, collective worship is seen as more than a daily ‘awe and wonder’ moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

‘We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives...Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this’

CEEO Guidance for Collective Worship (2021)

Therefore Collective Worship at Lockington CE VC Primary School is planned to:

- Explore the school’s vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, justice, forgiveness and respect and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity. This develops character and contributes to academic progress.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today’s world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.
- Be inspirational and inclusive, engaging all learners. They can talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school.

- Help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- An opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus and handbook.

Parents contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

At Lockington CE VC Primary School we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of race, gender, disability, faith, religion or any of the protected characteristics. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected with the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life.

A daily act of Collective Worship is held for all children, regardless of their background, culture or religion. Every effort is made to involve all children unless withdrawn by their parents in accordance with the law.

Planning Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by lighting a candle, welcoming pupils, and asking children to reflect quietly. Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4 stage structure of planning including 'Gathering' 'engaging' 'responding' 'sending'. There should also be space for evaluation.

A worship-planning group meets once a term, led by the worship co-ordinator. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last terms Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term. The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the Schools Council/Ethos committee. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning, leading and monitoring of Collective Worship.

School governors have a role monitoring Collective Worship through membership of the Ethos Committee at the school. There are a number of resources available to form the basis of Collective Worship planning, such as 'Roots and Fruits', 'Journey through the Bible' and 'Picture News'. The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by the Collective Worship Lead.

Our Pattern of Collective Worship

Whole School Worship is held five days per week, taken by the headteacher, class teachers and local clergy or volunteers. Visitors have included 'Open the Book', representatives from Beverley Schools Christian Trust, Fair Trade, Tesco, the School Sports Partnership, the Deputy Lieutenant, school governors, a high court judge, religious leaders and a wide variety of representatives and volunteers.

Acts of worship generally follow themes that are linked to the schools vision and values and include the pattern of the church's year.

Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship

Teachers are involved on a regular basis in developing the worship programme. Other staff and pupils and community members are given the opportunity to be involved in this programme every term and pupil-led collective worship is an embedded feature.

Monitoring and Evaluation

All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously and reflect after every worship to develop and improve their practice.

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our suggestion boxes and questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. When suggestions are made, these are shared with our Ethos Committee and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school.

Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York (SIAMS).


Review


This policy will be reviewed every three years or earlier as required.

Date policy reviewed: 20th April 2023

Date of next review: Summer Term 2026

Person responsible: Collective Worship Leader

Signed:  Headteacher Date: 20th April 202

Signed:  Chair of Governors Date: 20th April 2023