



Collective Worship Policy

This is a Trust Policy– details specific to individual academies and their procedures are added by the academy in the *Appendices*. (For a copy of the policy for a specific academy which includes the *Appendices* – see the individual academy website).

September 2020
Date for Next Revision – September 2021

Collective Worship Policy

“Working together for each child to realise their God-given potential to flourish”

Rationale

The Trust understands worship to be a special act or occasion, the purpose of which is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves pupils and staff coming together and participating in a daily gathering. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that collective worship should be “wholly or broadly of a Christian character”, collective worship in our academies is based on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we aim to conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the academy.

Collective worship contributes significantly to the ethos of the Trust and it is our aim that it is a time when the academy community can:

- Share common aims and values;
- Celebrate achievement and special times;
- Explore together the world in which we live;
- Develop a community spirit.

Aims for Collective Worship

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the pupils and academy community to worship God;
- To enable the pupils and academy community to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable the pupils and adults to explore their own beliefs;
- To encourage participation and response;
- To develop in pupils a sense of community spirit;
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- To introduce different ways of worshipping.

For further details of an individual academy’s aims and purpose of collective worship – see *Appendix 1*.

Practicalities of Organisation

Our academies hold a daily act of collective worship.

For academy specific details – see *Appendix 1*.

Content

A plan of themes is produced annually reflecting the values an academy has chosen. Our academies also consider and reflect on the festivals and special times of the Christian calendar.

For academy specific details – see *Appendix 1*.

Resources

For details of resources individual academies use – see *Appendix 1*.

Evaluation, Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the Academy Governance Committee (AGC) to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. As part of this, pupil interviews are carried out / pupil evaluation forms are reviewed.

Any academy specific details in relation to evaluation, monitoring and review are set out in *Appendix 1*.

Right of Withdrawal

As our academies are Church academies, we expect all pupils to attend collective worship, and we discuss this with parents / carers at the time of admission. However, any parent / carer can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the academy will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the pupil during the period concerned. Parents / carers do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with current legislation. The Headteacher keeps a record of any pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Appendix 1

Name of Academy: Cottingham CofE Primary School

Cottingham Church of England Primary School is part of Peterborough Diocese Education Trust (PDET). This policy for Collective Worship is consistent with the purpose and aims of the school and Peterborough Diocese Education Trust (PDET) as well as the Trust Deed upon which the school was founded.

- 'To help each individual develop those qualities of mind, body and spirit, feeling and imagination, that will enable them to live a fulfilling life'
- Religious worship shall be in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church of England
-

As required by law [Section 6 of the Education Reform Act 1988] all pupils are expected to take part in an act of collective worship each day.

Academy specific details

We are a Christian school serving our local community, which seeks to reflect in our life and work the example and teaching of Jesus Christ as set out in the Gospels. ***"This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you" John 15 verse 12***

At Cottingham CofE Primary School – With God's help:

We CARE for ourselves, each other and the environment.

We BUILD strong and healthy relationships.

We FOLLOW the teaching and example of Jesus.

We THINK of consequences before we act or speak.

'Living the Cottingham CofE values each day.'

Aims for Collective Worship

In addition to the aims already stated, at Cottingham CofE Primary School, Collective Worship is at the heart of our life and work. We provide an invitational opportunity, for pupils, staff, governors and parents to worship in a traditional Christian style, which is consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.

We believe that worship should be;

- Inclusive - Everyone can benefit and contribute, no matter what their personal belief or commitment. Respect is shown to all.
- Appropriate to the age of the children.
- An important learning experience, which enriches the lives of those people who attend, through music, story, prayer, reflection, silence and other traditions of worship.
- A very special occasion, the purpose of which is to show reverence to God.

- Helpful to participants understanding of and identification with, the school's vision, values and aims, building a sense of community
- In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base our times of worship on the teachings of the Bible and Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church and its relevance in today's world. However, we conduct collective worship in a manner that is respectful to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school. Whilst acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also respect and celebrate the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.
- Centred around our school and community chosen values of compassion, respect, honesty, perseverance, forgiveness and trust.
- Led by all members of the school community. Children are given various opportunities to take part in and lead all aspects of collective worship.

Practicalities of Organisation

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This can be either as whole-school collective worship or in individual classes. We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. Collective worship is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time; we create an appropriate atmosphere by using music or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

We always light a candle to signify the start of worship. We invite the children to participate in prayer, reflection and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and a cross and our school candle that acts as a focal point for the attention of the pupils and those present. Our altar table and classroom reflection areas are always dressed in accordance with the colours of the liturgical seasons. Collective worship is led by either the head teacher, members of staff, the children, local guests.

The School Values of *compassion, respect, honesty, perseverance, forgiveness* and *trust* are explored through our times of Collective Worship and we spend one term in every academic year considering each value. A Bible verse reflecting each value is shared at the start of each term. This verse is then shared by the whole school community during each time of collective worship throughout the term. Each termly focus is then broken down to last for a week. Worship is planned for the whole term in advance and shared with all via the school website. We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We also use Roots and Fruits Creative Collective Worship Programme as a tool for staff to deliver the Christian Values themes.

All teaching staff are expected to lead whole school worship. As well as school staff, whole school worship will also be taken by children, who are part of the Spiritual Council, guests from the local Hope Church and clergy from the nearby St. Mary Magdalene Church. This brings greater variety to our worship times and strengthens links between the Academy and the local community as well as building the skills of the pupils. Parents / carers are invited to Friday Collective Celebration Worship and other special services, e.g. at Christmas, Easter and the end of the academy year. This promotes the community spirit of the Academy. We welcome governors' attendance at our Collective Worship at any time either as guest or in their monitoring role.

Other opportunities for prayer and reflection are given throughout the week that include: Access to a designated prayer space, class lunch time prayer and in classes during class-based worship. The spiritual garden also allows an outdoor space for children and staff to use for reflection. Worship

opportunities are also offered to staff, children and their families as we attend services (e.g. Christingle and end of year services in Church).

Each act of collective worship begins in a consistent way whether being led by adults or children (See appendix 2). This approach allows all children and adults the opportunity to read the school vision and mission statements along with the chosen termly bible verse and school or the Lord's prayer. Worship is also ended in a consistent way with our rainbow prayers provided by children and the blessing being shared as a way of sending out.

Content

All Collective Worship is planned a term in advance and is reflected upon by all teaching staff, parents and children via a reflection book, displayed in the school foyer, on a weekly basis. Governors are also encouraged to attend worship regularly and to reflect on its impact. Collective worship celebrates the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage/invite the children to participate in collective worship by sharing their work with the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Our Spiritual Council are involved in leading whole school collective worship on a regular basis.

We also hold weekly Collective Worship that reflects the achievements and learning of the pupils both in and out of the school. We encourage the pupils to participate in Collective Worship by showing their work to others and sharing issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward pupils for their achievements both in and out of the Academy. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the Academy, which is that all pupils are valued and all achievements recognised. For example, parents/carers are regularly invited to nominate their child for the weekly sports star award.

Children attend a school service at St Mary Magdalene Church in Cottingham at least three times a year to which parents and any members of the community are invited.

Resources

Staff and children are able to use their own chosen resources when planning the delivery of collective worship. As above, the themes to be delivered and mapped out at the start of the academic year. Roots and Fruits Creative Collective worship planner is purchased and is used to plan worship alongside resources from the Church of England and Barnabas in Schools. Each week's theme is prepared onto a PowerPoint that can then be adapted by the deliverer. Both entrance music and hymn accompaniment is stored centrally. Year 6 pupils are tasked with setting up and organising the necessary resources for each whole school worship.

Appendix 2

When the school meets together for whole school acts of worship, these take place in the Hall at 2:30pm.

- Children and adults enter the school hall to reflective music
- Leader welcomes the children and adults
- A candle letter is chosen and the authors of the letter invited to light the school candle
- Theme of the week is shared along with a reflective thought
- Christian value of the term bible verse shared (call and response)
- School vision shared (call and response)
- School mission shared (call and response)
- School prayer (Lords Prayer Friday) recited
- Worship delivered
- Hymn displayed and sung (Parents invited to take part)
- Cottingham CofE Rainbow prayers shared by children
- Candle blown end to signify end of Christian collective worship

Cottingham CofE – Rainbow Prayer

