



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Love each other as God loves us.

At Frodsham CE Primary School we endeavour to:

- Create a warm and welcoming ethos centred on shared Christian values.
- Develop happy, confident and resilient children who show respect for themselves and others, and make a positive contribution to their community.
- Make learning fun inside and outside of the classroom by providing a broad range of exciting and rich learning experiences which challenge and motivate all children.
- Recognise every child is unique, meet their individual needs and celebrate their achievements.
- Encourage all to be the best they can be.

Our core values are: love, respect, kindness, community, faith and resilience

Presented to Staff and Governors: September 2025

Next Review: June 2028

Person Responsible: Susan Riddiough

Rationale

Collective Worship is the beating heart of our school and always aspires to be invitational, inspirational and inclusive. The Christian vision of the school, encompassing all that we stand for, is reflected in and expressed through Collective Worship. Collective Worship is where we learn how Christians stay connected to Christ: the vine, in order to show love to one another and know that God loves us.

Collective Worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school. It is an oasis in the school day when children meet together with members of staff in a calm, peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is regarded as 'quality' time and represents something special or separate from ordinary school routine. "Praise, prayer, silence, a sense of community, common ideal, and the power of the spoken word, ritual, and an awareness of important experiences all contribute to worship."

Collective Worship:

- Gives all present the opportunity to enter into experiences which lie at the heart of religion. These experiences help them to learn about religious worship and provide a framework for later understanding.
- Fosters a reverential attitude to God.
- Encourages all present to consider fundamental questions about the purpose of being and about moral and ethical stances.
- Provides an opportunity, for those who are willing, to participate in religious worship.
- Allows us to learn about and celebrate values we hold to be important.
- Brings children and adults together, enabling them to experience the security of belonging to a community with an identity of its own.
- Is the source of much interesting and thought provoking knowledge.
- Offers pleasurable expression through literature, art, music and drama.
- Makes an important, though not exclusive, contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

1. Aims of the Policy

"Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for all present to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes." (DfEE – Circular 1/94)

Principles

Collective Worship should:

- Have a sense of occasion.
- Provide experiences within which spiritual development may flourish for all present.
- Be a means of expressing the ethos and values of the school.
- Be educational and should contribute to the Religious Education of all children.
- Be shaped to the needs of the school (time, place, content, style etc.).

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- Include a varied pattern to broaden the experience of its different forms for all present.
- Recognise that the school includes children and adults from different religious and non-religious backgrounds.
- Collective Worship will allow some to worship, some to experience something approaching worship and others to find out what it is like to worship by being with those who are.

Objectives

The objectives of Collective Worship are to:

- Affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of the Trinity.
- Introduce all present to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement and prayer.
- Create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere.
- Encourage a thoughtful and reflective attitude.
- Help all present experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness.
- Enable all present to use silence for reflection and contemplation.
- Raise the curiosity about the ultimate mysteries of life for all present.
- Enable all present to learn about and consider in depth Christian teaching.
- Help all present appreciate that we are 'stewards' of God's world.
- Enable all present to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to those of others.
- Enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all present.
- Guide all present towards the spiritual and religious options open to them.
- Help all present distinguish between right and wrong.
- Affirm the personal worth and responsibility of all present.
- Celebrate individual and collective achievements.
- Develop a sense of community within the school.
- Celebrate religious festivals and special occasions with specified worship.

2. Spirituality in Collective Worship

Collective Worship provides a time and space for spiritual flourishing for all children and adults. It provides the opportunity for our school community to share experiences, ideas and understanding of spirituality. It is a major context in which the language of spirituality, which we use as a school, is regularly and explicitly shared.

Collective Worship provides the opportunity for the pupils and staff to become aware of the importance of reflection and how our positive and negative experiences can be formative. It also provides a real sense of being present which is often linked to invitations to pray.

Through daily Collective Worship, our pupils and staff are offered a place and space for hearing Christian stories and teachings. They are also offered an understanding of worship by being invited to participate in, or observe, Christian spiritual practices such as: prayer, readings and reflections on the Bible and liturgy and are also introduced to a variety of musical traditions.

There are opportunities to learn and explore more about 'Me, Others, World and God'. Pupils and staff are encouraged to consider their responsibilities to themselves, others, the world and God and to grow in love. Time is given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members as well as marking seasonal Christian festival and celebrations in the calendars of other world faiths and beliefs.

In this way pupils and staff are offered time to contemplate and develop spirituality, linking this to the language of our 'WOW Connections' where appropriate.

3. Implementation

Collective worship is a very special part of the school day, where we can encourage all to live out our vision: Love each other as God loves us.' It is given a high priority by the school community. Collective Worship takes place daily and all children and staff attend.

Organisation

The timetable for Collective Worship is as follows:

Monday	10.10am	Whole school worship led by the head teacher, deputy head teacher, worship leader or any visiting guests
Tuesday	9.05am	KS2 worship led by Rev Elaine Attack
	9.20am	Rec / KS1 worship led by Rev Elaine Attack
Wednesday	9.00am	Class worship – teachers rotate around the classes weekly
Thursday	10.00am	Rec / KS1 singing worship led by the worship and music leader
	10.15am	KS2 singing worship led by the worship and music leader

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Friday 9.05am Whole school celebration worship: 'Shine Your Light' or class worship
When appropriate worship will take place in church.

Planning / Themes for worship

Each term worship across the school follows a planned theme.

The themes are planned on a two year rolling programme (See Long Term Worship Planner).

Planning is recorded on the agreed format (see Teachers' Worship Planner)

Main Christian festivals and special school occasions always include worship.

Each half term one of the school values is also of particular focus within our worship.

Structure of worship

During collective worship there should be a quiet and reflective atmosphere.

The structure of assemblies includes a variety of approaches such as bidding prayers, Bible readings, Anglican traditions, music, songs of praise, stories, videos, artefacts, images, drama, talks, questions and answers, periods of reflection, a call to action and closing prayers, all of which encourage active participation. Worship will always follow the same pattern: welcome, learning, responding, reflecting, sending.

Resources

Music, candles and special resources and artefacts, including cloths in correct liturgical colours, are used to create an appropriate atmosphere and focus.

Resources to support the implementation of worship are stored in the hall cupboard.

Inclusion

Every effort should be made to meet the needs of all learners so Collective Worship can be accessed by all members of our school family. Staff will consider individual needs and provide support and make adaptations as and when needed.

Expectations of behaviour

It is the teacher's responsibility to model and ensure appropriate behaviour of their class. Teachers are to sit either side of the hall, where they can address individual children's behaviour if needed. Classes and staff should be punctual for worship; children should be sitting calmly in the hall by the start time.

Governors and visitors

Governors are invited to join all acts of worship and parents and other visitors are invited to join special acts of collective worship and celebrations.

Children leading worship

Wherever possible, children should be involved in the planning and delivery of Collective Worship. Each term children within the school Ethos Group will deliver a collective act of worship for the whole school. This will be based on the whole school theme at that time and will include them planning, resourcing and implementing their own ideas in whatever manner they wish.

Visiting leaders

Throughout the year visiting leaders will be invited to lead worship as appropriate. These visitors may be from other local Christian churches or from world faiths.

Daily Prayer life

Spontaneous prayer is encouraged at all times. However daily prayers are said before lunch and at the end of the school day. These include a range of traditional prayers, use of prayer books, spontaneous prayers, and prayers written by the children. All classes have an attractive prayer focus with a range of prayer books, Bibles, special artefacts, candles and cloth in the correct liturgical colour. All classes also have a prayer board onto which children and staff are encouraged to place names or issues for which they wish prayers to be shared. These must be a focal point for the classroom and used during prayer time, when a quiet, calm atmosphere is created and all staff and children participate.

Prayers are regularly shared between church and school with focus on common themes and needs.

Reflective Areas

Reflective areas are established within each classroom and the hall. These areas further enhance the Collective Worship and the RE teaching by providing a focal area for the children to access individually. The areas may be themed alongside the worship planning or taught RE concept but may also be based around any other reflective

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theme appropriate to the children and current world issues. The areas will allow for a level of interaction by children and adults and where possible there will be the opportunity to record personal reflections if anyone should choose to do. These areas will be changed each half-term.

Outdoor Reflective Area

An outdoor reflective area has been created and resourced (Weather permitting) to allow a quiet area for all children to access during play and lunchtimes. Prayer and reflective activities are provided for the children to engage in should they choose to do so.

Prayer Spaces

There will be a 'Prayer Activity' for the children to engage in should they choose to do so. Resources for this will be shared within worship and participation by the children can be seen in the rear entrance hall of school. This 'Prayer Activity' will, when possible, be closely linked to the Monday worship or may reflect a local, national or world issue. A week long 'Prayer Spaces' room is set up bi-annually allowing children and staff to explore further ways of praying and reflecting peacefully.

Prayer and Praise Club

A weekly 15 minute, lunch time club will be offered to all children, and staff, which will feature prayer-based activities.

Ethos Group

KS2 children are given the opportunity to attend the school Ethos Group as an after-school club. The aim of the group is to develop worship and prayer alongside community engagement. Activities have so far included making cards and flowers for residents of a local care home and spending time with many of the people there, hosting Community Afternoon Teas, making chocolates to give out to people in Frodsham town square, raising money for local, national and global charities, creating and encouraging classes across school to complete community challenges, planning and leading worship, developing and setting up prayer activities, helping to lead the lunchtime Prayer and Praise Club and being responsible for activities in the outdoor reflection garden.

Admission to Communion

At the end of Year 3 and beginning of Year 4, children follow a weekly programme, in conjunction with St Laurence, to learn more about the Christian faith. During this course, the children have the opportunity to choose to be admitted to Holy Communion. As an additional part of this course, we offer a day retreat at Noddfa, Penmaenmawr. This is followed by a special Admission to Holy Communion service in Church on a Sunday morning.

Communion

At least one school Eucharist is celebrated each term either in church or school.

Lenten Eucharist Services

During Lent, each KS2 class leads their own special Eucharist service in church. Parents and members of the parish are invited to attend.

Staff Meetings

All staff meetings start with a time of prayer and reflection. Any member of staff can make a prayer request which is shared on the weekly information to staff.

4. Staff Responsibilities:

Worship Leader

- To create a collective worship policy.
- To ensure a daily act of collective worship takes place.
- To co-ordinate the acts of worship, creating a termly timetable.
- To plan themes for collective worship.
- To invite and liaise with visitors leading collective worship.
- To monitor and evaluate the planning and delivery of collective worship by teaching staff.
- To arrange Collective Worship held at St Laurence Church.
- To work with small groups of children to enable them to plan and deliver effective acts of whole school worship.
- To organise and lead collective worship to celebrate annual Christian festivals.

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Class Teacher

- To attend all school Collective Worship.
- To deliver class Collective Worship weekly.
- To prepare a class Collective Worship twice a year for the whole school, including parents.
- To plan and evaluate collective worship.

Teaching Assistants

- To attend all school Collective Worship.
- To assist in the evaluation of Collective Worship.

Headteacher and Governors

- The Head teacher is responsible, along with the Worship Leader, for ensuring that worship remains true to the ideals outlined in this policy.
- The Governing Body is responsible for reviewing the Collective Worship policy and its implementation.
- The Governing Body is responsible for monitoring Collective Worship delivered by the head and the head is responsible for monitoring Collective Worship delivered by other members of staff.
- The Governing Body is responsible for taking an active role in school life by attending Collective Worship and attending special services and celebrations.
- The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that the Foundation of the school is honoured and that the worship policy is firmly based upon the intentions set down in the Trust Deed. Rev Elaine Attack is the named governor with responsibility for Collective Worship.

5. Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship is an on-going process carried out on a daily and termly basis and informs future planning.

Monitoring

Monitoring of Collective Worship will be carried out by the headteacher and worship leader. Useful strategies for collecting the evidence will include:

- Written observations; checking that practice matches planning
- Observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- Conducting occasional formal observations of Collective Worship and providing feedback
- Seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors
- Observing the extent of the Collective Worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- Holding regular discussions with colleagues
- Gathering written comments from colleagues on the worship planning sheet

All members of the school community, including children, staff, governors and parents are also invited to record their responses to worship in the 'worship reflection book'.

Feedback will be brought to school self evaluation staff meetings which will review collective worship regularly. The information gathered via one or more of the strategies listed above will be analysed carefully in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the collective worship. The headteacher and foundation governors, including the incumbent, will be the main evaluators. Formal evaluation of collective worship will take place at least annually.

Review

A worship planning and record sheet is kept weekly to ensure that acts of worship are generally compatible with the requirements of the policy and to inform our learning and planning for further developments. These will regularly include any formal and informal evaluations of acts of Collective Worship which will assist monitoring, future planning and delivery. Visitors outside the school community who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of the Collective Worship policy.

6. Opportunities for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development and British Values

As a Church of England School, spiritual and moral development is at the heart of our collective worship. Opportunity for spiritual and moral development is for everyone and all children, staff and visitors / volunteers are expected to attend Collective Worship. Collective Worship can be an opportunity to learn further about the diversity in our world, promoting a respect and tolerance for others. Through Collective Worship, all present have

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opportunity to explore the fundamental British Values.

7. Equal opportunities

A daily act of Collective Worship is held for all children regardless of their background culture or religion. Every effort is made by the school to involve all children in worship. Parents may withdraw their child from Collective Worship on religious grounds. If there are any children whose parents exercise their right to withdraw them from worship alternative activities will be provided in consultation with the children's parents. This does not mean that the children will be in any way exempt from the Christian ethos of the school which underpins the whole of school life. Parents are made fully aware of this when they enrol their children.

As a school we recognise that we are preparing children to enter a multicultural and multifaith society and we take particular care to ensure we respect the faiths of all the children in our school. Acts of worship may include materials from faiths other than Christianity, when relevant, and especially when children from those faiths are present, but at all times worship must be offered to God through Jesus Christ.

8. Health and Safety

The school Health and Safety Policy will be fully implemented during Collective Worship. There will always be appropriate supervision within the hall. Candles will be used safely and with close supervision. Any electrical equipment used has been tested and cables will not provide a risk.

Conclusion

At Frodsham CE Primary School, Collective Worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take an active part in a high quality daily act of invitational, inclusive and inspirational collective worship. At Frodsham CE Primary School, Collective Worship should be a transformative practice which results in spiritual flourishing for all.

	Date	Reviewed by	Notes
Policy received	September 2007	RE coordinator, Vicar, head teacher	This policy has been rewritten and will be taken to the next full governors meeting
Reviewed/amended	March 2012	Curriculum Committee	
Reviewed/amended	March 2014	Miriam Powell	
Reviewed/amended	July 2017	Susan Riddiough	Amended
Reviewed/amended	May 2021	Susan Riddiough	Amended
Reviewed/amended	Sept 2023	Susan Riddiough	Amended
Reviewed/amended	Sept 2025	Susan Riddiough	Amended

Signed:

(subject leader)

(governor)