



## Collective Worship Guidance

Frances Olive Anderson is a Church of England Aided School. Our collective worship is almost exclusively Christian, although there are occasions when other faiths are the focus during collective worship e.g. festivals, holy days etc. A range of ministers from different denominations are invited to take assemblies. Although we are a Church of England Aided School, we welcome the wider perspective provided by other denominations.

Collective Worship at our school follows the guidance of:

- Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Worship
- Lincolnshire's Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (2018-2022.)

*'In the light of the Christian traditions of Great Britain, collective worship is to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.'* (ERA 1988, Education Act 1993)

ERA (1988) and the Education Act (1993) state that acts of worship may contain certain elements drawn from a number of different faiths, but that within each term, the majority of acts of worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

### Policy Statement

At Frances Olive Anderson Church of England (Aided) Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life.

Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our vision.

'Being Different Belonging Together'

"All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it." (1 Corinthians 12:27)

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. These are explored on a three year rolling programme – see appendix (i). The contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

### Christian Values Education

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally, spiritually and intelligently so that their self esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought. To achieve our vision at Frances Olive Anderson C of E Primary School, the school community has identified five specific values we feel are the most appropriate. These are:

Honesty:

"Do unto others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31

Friendship:

"Love is patient, love is kind." 1 Corinthians 13:4



Courage:

"But take courage; I have conquered the world." John 16:33

Respect:

"I have set you an example, that you should do as I have done for you." John 13:15

Commitment to Achieve:

"Strive for the greater gifts and I will show you a more excellent way." 1 Corinthians 12:31

## **Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the Government Circular Number 1/94 which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

## **The Purpose of Collective Worship**

- To contribute to a sense of unity and community for the school as a whole
- To promote spiritual, cultural and moral development

## **Aims of Collective Worship**

- To provide opportunity for an experience of worship
- To relate Biblical stories and Christian teachings to their own everyday life and experiences
- To reflect on Values for Life and concerns of the school community and the community it serves
- To deepen and widen a child's emotional response
- To enable children to gain insights into ways in which people express themselves within their faith commitments and to be sensitive to those different ways of responding.

## **Objectives of Collective Worship**

To develop a sense of:

- Awe, wonder and mystery
- Interdependence with the natural world
- Pattern, sequence and order
- Self worth and value of others

To develop an awareness:

- That life involves choices of belief, attitude, behaviour and relationships
- That there are issues of meaning, purpose and value in life

## **Principles of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is inclusive and invitational:

- Pupil centred, related to pupils own experience and relevant to pupil concerns
- It should acknowledge diversity
- It should involve pupils as active participants
- It should match the needs of pupils
- It should foster a sense of community.



Collective Worship is educational.

Learning experiences should:

- Be related to pupils' own experiences
- Be properly planned
- Relate to other curriculum activities
- Provide the school with opportunities to reflect on the education it provides
- Have a purpose and celebrate educational achievements
- Be consistent with the aims of the school.

Collective Worship is spiritual.

- A time to be still and reflect
- A special time – conducive to worship
- Children should feel calm, relaxed and secure
- It should include a variety of words, music and images
- It should provide opportunities for children to take part in a variety of spiritual opportunities
- It should provide an opportunity for children to take part in worship.

## Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading Collective Worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively class teachers may develop their Worship from themes and events that occur on our curriculum during the week. On occasions it is recognised that those leading Worship may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

Monday: Whole school Worship based on current value being explored.

Tuesday: Whole school Newsday Tuesday. Introduction of a Big Question if appropriate.

Wednesday: Whole school Worship – Bible story linked to current value being explored – led by Methodist Youth Worker.

Thursday: Whole school Worship based on current value being explored or based on what is happening around us at this time.

Friday: Whole school celebration assembly led by the Headteacher or nominated teacher.

Twice a term, the School Council or Team Leaders plan and lead a Worship.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship.

The Worship should last approximately 15 minutes.



## **Planning, Content and Detail**

The themes for Collective Worship reflect our Values for Life focus for that term, the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events. The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music.

The candle on the special table is lit and the worship begins, usually with the children singing a hymn. The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with a prayer. The candle is then switched off. Children's birthdays are celebrated after this, this allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played. The structure for Collective Worship is attached as appendix (ii).

The Celebration Worship celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school. Children and classes receive special mentions and certificates. Homework is celebrated and the hymn is a celebratory one. The worship ends when a prayer is said and the candle is switched off. In the school there is much to say thank you for, much to praise, much to hope and request. We place these as high priorities.

## **Prayer and Reflection**

Collective Worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers is used including the School Prayer, Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of the whole school worship led by the Headteacher or nominated teacher, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles. A cross is also displayed at the front of the hall.

At the end of morning lessons, Grace is said by the children in each class.

## **Other Faiths**

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing acceptance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

## **Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring**

A record is kept, recording each act of worship. Any evaluation will be recorded here. The Collective Worship Council will also evaluate the impact of worship annually. Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of Worship.

## **Visits and visitors**

As part of the curriculum, Frances Olive Anderson CE Primary School ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship.

Visitors to the school are welcomed to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St Helens' Church, Lea is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas,



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Easter and Leavers' Services. This is the church closest to the school, although liaison with the other parishes is also encouraged and welcomed.

### **Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues**

A member of the Governing Body has been nominated to act as the link governor. Their role is to liaise with staff members to discuss various aspects of R.E. and Collective Worship. This ensures an effective line of communication between the staff and the governing body.

Parents and carers are invited to join with us at special occasions and Church services to develop a sense of community and celebrate our links with the Church.

### **Equal Opportunities and Special Needs Issues**

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of Collective Worship. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

### **Review**

This guidance is monitored by the governing body and was reviewed by the Full Governing Body in **October 2021**. It will be reviewed in **October 2023** or earlier if necessary.



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Appendix (i)

Year 1	Year 2	Year3
<b>Autumn 1 Courage</b>	<b>Autumn 1 Thankfulness</b>	<b>Autumn 1 Generosity</b>
God is present in every situation. Overcoming fear, making a stand for what is right and encouraging others to persevere. Through prayer people have found strength to help them be courageous.	Christians believe that God loves and cares for them in many different ways in all aspects of their life.	God's love is best described as grace, love given freely without limit or conditions.
<b>Autumn 2 Creativity</b>	<b>Autumn 2 Compassion</b>	<b>Autumn 2 Respect</b>
Life is a gift from the creator god to humankind for a purpose. Gift is shown in the creative spirit of everyone. Responsibility to ensure the creation is sustained and not spoiled.	Christians believe that their attitudes and actions must reflect the kindness, mercy and compassion of Jesus and the love of God for everyone.	Christians believe that respect is acknowledging God's greatness, authority and involvement in the world.
<b>Spring 1 Peace</b>	<b>Spring 1 Friendship</b>	<b>Spring 1 Wisdom</b>
Peace-making actions can range from helping to resolve conflict to creating space for stillness. Peace in the sense of well being is God's intention for the whole creation.	Christians believe they can call God their friend because of the relationship made possible through Jesus.	Christians believe true wisdom comes from God. AS a believer grows in faith so wisdom will increase.
<b>Spring 2 Trust</b>	<b>Spring 2 Hope</b>	<b>Spring 2 Perseverance</b>
Trust is the basis of all stable relationships, including a person's relationship with God. It is rooted in truth.	Christians see their hope in God's promise " That love and goodness have, and will ultimately overcome all evil." This hope is manifested in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.	Jesus frequently encouraged his disciples to endure patiently the difficulties and obstacles they encountered and persevere in the face of adversity.
<b>Summer 1 Forgiveness</b>	<b>Summer 1 Truthfulness</b>	<b>Summer 1 Service</b>
Forgiveness is the means by which damaged relationships are restored. Jesus ' death on cross is the ultimate revelation of God's all forgiving love.	Christians believe that truth is revealed in the Bible and supremely in the person and life of Jesus Christ. Through Jesus' teaching we are given an insight into the nature of God and the way in which He means us to live.	Christians believe that their calling is to follow Jesus.
<b>Summer 2 Justice</b>	<b>Summer 2 Humility</b>	<b>Summer 2 Responsibility</b>
The justice revealed in the bible is always seen in the context of love.	Christians believe that Jesus was both servant and king. He demonstrated this through His life, death and resurrection. Jesus taught his disciples that it means to be truly humble.	The Bible teaches that life is a gift from God and it is our responsibility to use our talents and abilities in the best way we can.



Appendix (ii)

Structure for Collective Worship
1) Music as children enter the hall
2) Lighting of the candle and greeting This is the light of Christ... <b>Let it shine through me</b>
3) Word of God: Show us your paths, O Lord, <b>And teach us your ways</b>
4) Content of the Collective Worship – include time for reflection, talk partner work and link to Bible story/reference if appropriate.
5) Hymn – stand to sing
6) Prayers School Prayer Plus The Lord's Prayer (not every time)
7) Sending out – snuff out the candle and say ... May the light of Christ our Lord shine in all our hearts. <b>Amen</b>
8) Music to leave Collective Worship.

**Bold type** – response from children and staff