



## 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.

### 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, moral and social development (SMSC)

## **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 reflect on and relate The British Values to everyday life and choices made
- To become aware of the protected characteristics and to understand that discrimination is not right nor legal
- To become aware of the United Nations Rights of the Child and how this impacts on them and those around them
- 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 acknowledges diversity



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**Church of England (Aided) School**  
'Being different, Belonging together'



- It involves pupils as active participants
- It matches the needs of pupils
- It fosters a sense of community.

Collective Worship is educational and is:

- Related to pupils' own experiences
- Properly planned
- Related to other curriculum activities
- Purposeful and celebrates educational and out of school achievements
- Significant in the learning of the skills, knowledge and attributes we have articulated in our Intent for our provision – what we aspire for our children to leave Frances Olive Anderson C of E Primary School being able to do, think and feel.

Collective Worship is spiritual.

- A time to be still and reflect
- A special time – conducive to worship
- Children feel calm, relaxed and secure
- It includes a variety of words, music and images
- It provides opportunities for children to take part in a variety of spiritual opportunities
- It provides 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 based on Picture News. Each week they choose a current news story, provide an image, a thought-provoking question and a variety of teaching resources. This always links to a Biblical Value, a British Value, a Protected Characteristic and an United Nations Right of the Child. This enables our children to learning directly from what is happening in the world around us and empowers them to be the change we want to see. We have also introduced a picture book worship weekly.

Monday: Whole school Worship based on a Picture Book celebrating diversity or a special day/event/week.

Tuesday: Whole school Picture News.

Wednesday: Whole school Worship – Bible story linked to Picture News Biblical Value for the week.

Thursday: Class Reflection – a follow up to the Picture News story, further exploration of the British Value, Protected Characteristic and United Nations Right of the Child.

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

During the term, the School Council, The Worship Council or the JRSOs (Junior Road Safety Officers) plan and lead a Worship.

At the start of each term, there is a Worship introducing the new PSHE unit using the Jigsaw scheme resources:

Term 1: Being Me in My World



Term 2: Celebrating Differences  
Term 3: Dreams and Goals  
Term 4: Healthy Me  
Term 5: Relationships  
Term 6: Changing Me

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 the current stories from Picture News, the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events and celebrations. 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 or a song appropriate to the theme for Worship that day. 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 (i).

The Celebration Worship celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school. Children and classes receive special mentions and certificates. The worship ends when a prayer is said, and the candle is switched off. In the school there is much to say thankyou 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.

### **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.

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

A record is kept, recording each act of worship. Any evaluation will be recorded here. Picture News supplies an overview of the stories covered, the themes, British Value, Protected Characteristic and United Nations Right of the Child at the end of each short term. The Collective Worship Council will also evaluate the impact of worship. 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, 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, such as when Governor Certificates are awarded, and Church services (where space allows) 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 Pupil and Staffing Committee in **January 2024**. It will be reviewed in **January 2027** or earlier if necessary.



Appendix (i)

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 / song
6) Prayers
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