



**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**  
**Holywell C of E Primary School**

**September 2020**

<b>Date approved by Local Governing Body</b>	<b>17.11.20</b>
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<b>Signed by Chair of Local Governing Body</b>	

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## 1. RATIONALE

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of Friendship, Respect, Peace, Truthfulness and honesty, Love and compassion, Hope, Trust, Thankfulness and appreciation and Courage 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 will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of 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.

Therefore, Collective Worship at **Holywell** School is planned to

- to be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- will regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the school's core Christian values
- will have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- will help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide
- will challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection Stillness
- will contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to"
- will be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

Collective worship is invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

## 2. 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.

### 2.1 Withdrawal from Collective Worship

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

### 2.2 Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

This policy is used in conjunctions with the school's policy for Equality which ensures inclusion and equal opportunities for all pupils, prospective pupils, staff, prospective staff or anybody they are associated with.

### **3. PLANNING COLLECTIVE WORKSHIP**

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 and asking children to reflect quietly at the end of the worship and finish by collectively saying our school prayer.

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.

**The foundation governor has 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 located in the staff room.

Every class is encouraged to take part and lead collective worship during the school year e.g. in class groups, key stage groups and we come together for special days in the St Peter's Church such as Harvert estival, Christmas and Easter. A daily collective worship is held each day.

The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by the RE lead supported by all teachers and the headteacher.

### **4. OUR PATTERN OF COLLECTIVE WORKSHIP**

Whole School Worship is held every day and these are taken by each class teacher on a rota. The local reverend also comes into school to take worship whenever possible.

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

### **5. 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 acceptable. 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.

## **6. STAFF AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Friends from the community also join us on a regular basis with our worship programme. Other staff and pupils are given the opportunity of being involved in this programme every term.

## **7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by **pupils, staff, and** governors on a termly basis.

All who deliver worship will be observed on a termly basis. This process supports the school's self-evaluation, is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body.

Pupils are also involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in weekly class worship, questionnaires and pupil conferences.

All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, 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. These are shared with our (worship committee, during full governing body meetings) 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 Exeter (SIAMS).

## **8. DIOCESAN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP GUIDELINES**

Headteachers and Local Governing Bodies should refer to and consider the most recent Exeter Diocesan Collective Worship Guidelines when reviewing this policy.

## APPENDIX 1: POLICY HISTORY

Version	Summary of Change	Review Date	Lead Author/s
1.0	Review of policy	Sept 2020	SB