



**Chaddleshworth St. Andrew's and Shefford
Church of England Federated Primary Schools**
'Living life in all its fullness'



Chaddleshworth and Shefford C of E Federated Primary Schools	Effective Date:	January 2026
Policy and Procedure Statement	Revision Date:	January 2029
School Collective Worship Policy	Approval:	Headteacher: Debbie Munday
		Chair of Governors: Jim Hazlewood

As a federation of two Church schools, we are at the heart of the community and strive to 'Live life in all its fullness', in partnership with parents and the wider community.

Chaddleshworth St. Andrew's and Shefford CE Primary Schools are committed to enabling all pupils to achieve their full potential. We will do this through developing a love of learning within a creative environment, where everyone aspires towards excellence.

We strive to provide worship opportunities that are inclusive, invitational and inspiring. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly. We also follow the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act for Collective Worship.

Our specific Christian values are:

Community, Compassion, Courage, Trust, Perseverance and Thankfulness.

Name	Signature	Date
Headteacher Debbie Munday		
Chair of Governing Board Jim Hazlewood		

The worship in our church school is determined by the headteacher and governors, taking account of the trust deed. We discuss the content and structure of worship with staff, parents, pupils and local clergy.

Our approach to collective worship takes full account of our school's context and worship is invitational, inclusive and inspirational.

In creating our policy, our church school consulted;

- The OBDE Invitational, Inclusive, Inspiring document (Appendix part 1)
- The Church of England Vision for Education (Appendix part 2)
- SIAMS framework (Appendix part 3)

to ensure that the expectations of the National Society are interwoven with the actions of our school.

Our Collective Worship Intent

To provide opportunities for children to:

- experience worship for themselves and reflect on their own thoughts.
- consider moral and spiritual issues which are of a Christian character.
- explore and share beliefs, appreciating and respecting the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them.
- participate and respond in various ways, i.e. active involvement in listening or participation, singing, music making, drama.
- experience Christian Festivals and to explore Christian values and their relevance to everyday life.
- hear and respond to selected stories from the Bible and other sources.
- listen and respond to those from other denominations or faith backgrounds.
- provide a time of quiet reflection, peace and prayer.
- explore feelings of wonder, awe, mystery and joy, fostering spiritual development.
- think of the needs of others and develop a sense of community.
- worship at St. Mary's Church, Great Shefford and St Andrew's Church, Chaddleworth.

Our Collective Worship Implementation

- The school will be sensitive to the fact that not all children will come from families with a religious background.
- The whole school will come together for Collective Worship at least once a week. On the remaining days, worship will be class, team or school based.
- The local members of the clergy or people of faith communities are regularly invited into school to lead our collective worship.
- The usual format of collective worship starts with the welcome. A story is read or a theme is discussed and followed by time for reflection. Prayers relating to the story or theme are shared, and the collective worship may be concluded with a hymn and opportunity for prayer.
- There is a daily act of Collective worship for all children in our school.
- Different classes and individuals have the opportunity weekly and throughout the year to plan and lead acts of worship at school or at St Mary's or St Andrew's Church.

Our school's current Collective Worship weekly timetable:

When?	When & where?	Who?	What?
Monday	Morning in the hall	HT & SLT	Whole school worship linked to current affairs, No Outsiders picture books, Bible stories linked to Christian values and seasons of the Church's year, invitation for children to lead a TSP prayer. Everyone is invited to share in song.
Tuesday or Thursday	Timetabled in classroom	EYFS /KS1 class teacher	Phase team Collective Worship using Bible stories linked to our current Christian value focus or the weekly Picture News resource linked to current affairs via an image and information with linked BIG question to consider. Picture News shared weekly in school newsletter with the school community.
Wednesday	Morning in the hall	Local clergy visit	Local clergy, with planning and guidance from school, lead whole school worship with consideration of the liturgical year (see Appendix part 4) and Bible stories linked to our current school Christian value. Everyone is invited to join in prayer and song.
Thursday or Tuesday	Timetabled in classrooms	KS2 teacher	Class Collective Worship with reflective time to share examples of the school vision of, 'living life in all its fullness'. Examples shared by children and staff of living our school vision are shared in the weekly school newsletter with the school community.
Friday	Afternoon in the hall	HT & SLT	Whole school worship reflecting on the week's achievements (in school and out of school) for children and staff, sharing and celebrating evidence of Christian values in action, joining in song through hymns.
Everyday	Lunchtime prayer EYFS and KS1 start of lunch KS2 end of lunch	SLT and children	Everyone is invited to join or be reflective for the lunchtime prayer, led by volunteer or chosen children.
			<table border="1"> <tr> <td>EYFS & KS1 For every cup and plateful, God makes us truly grateful. Amen.</td> <td>KS2 We give thanks for our hunger, We give thanks for our food, We give thanks for enough of each To do our bodies good. Amen.</td> </tr> </table>
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End of day prayers	Class teacher and children	Everyone is invited to join or be reflective for the end of day prayer, led by volunteer or chosen children or the class, We thank you Father for today, And all the learning we've done. For help we have been given, For our education and our fun. Amen	

Right to Withdraw

Parents have the right, under the 1988 Act, to withdraw their children from all or parts of worship. It is a legal requirement that all children attend unless their parents have exercised their right to withdraw. Requests for withdrawal should be granted without delay. The 'religious grounds' do not have to be justified and explained by the parents. Should children be withdrawn, the school must provide adequate supervision to ensure their safety. Children should not be withdrawn from Collective Worship for other purposes, e.g. reading, music lessons, to do so is to break the law.

Thoughts and Definitions of our school Collective Worship

Worship opportunity in our school is known as 'collective' worship, as opposed to 'corporate' worship which refers to the collective act of worshipping God by a congregation or assembly of believers. In collective worship the school community gathers (or 'collects') and worship takes place; there is no expectation or compulsion placed on participants. What is provided is *opportunity* during which the participants, through a variety of experiences, can do the things identified in our policy. Our school is fully supporting of other faiths or none.

Worship may support curriculum content. The vision of our school is distinctively Christian, and the curriculum is followed in this context. Opportunities for spiritual reflection and prayer are shared across the curriculum and worship links to the learning that children do in lessons. Children may present work or conduct performances that may relate to their learning. These can be included within a structure of prayer and reflection.

Planning of Collective Worship in our school takes account of each aspect, of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural, education to enhance the collective worship offer for our children. For example, providing opportunity for worship to include stories or other material from sources other than Christianity.

Visitors (including clergy) are briefed as to what our school's Collective Worship entails. In all acts of worship, the *school* retains overall control. Visitors will always be supported and guided by the Collective Worship lead teacher or SLT to follow the school Collective Worship policy.

Planning worship has two main dimensions:

- Whole school Collective Worship is planned through the year to take account of the pattern of themes (including Christian Values), Bible stories and readings, songs and prayers;
- Class and age group team acts of Collective Worship are planned using guidance from the school's vision statement, 'living life in all its fullness' and using the Picture News current affairs news resource.

Our school seeks to increase impact of Collective Worship opportunities through a range of engagements, such as; Lighting a candle, reading the Bible, song, reflection, prayer.

When considering and sharing prayer, our schools takes in to account the diverse community served by the school (Christian faith, other faith beliefs and secular beliefs). Our children and staff are invited to join in prayer, be respectful of space for reflection, or to take a mindful moment to ensure that Worship retains its important central role in school life.

The Collective Worship lead, supporting school Governors and SLT will conduct ongoing monitoring of school worship, including a variety of approaches (such as joining worship opportunities, pupil voice and reviews of Collective Worship planning) so that the impact of the worship experience(s) can be effectively ascertained.

APPENDIX

PART 1:

❖ Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring – May 2021 p.2-3

[Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring](#)

Inclusive: Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. In the Church school pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. Many pupils and staff in our schools will come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, many pupils will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Pupils should be given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There should be space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching.

Collective worship should not be 'done to' but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. It is recognised that pupils will bring their own experience to worship. Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship. Although part of a national legislative framework, collective worship in the Church school grows out of the local context and out of pupils' experience, including their cultural backgrounds.

Invitational: Parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There should be no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship should provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. The metaphor of 'warm fires and open doors' captures this idea. The warmth of the fire derives from the clarity and authenticity of the Christian message at its heart. There is no value to an encounter with a watered down, lowest common denominator version of faith. Importantly the door is open, all are welcome to come in and sit as near or as far away from the fire as they feel comfortable. Pupils and adults should always only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way. Prayer should always be accompanied by the option to reflect.

Music and liturgies used in worship should reflect the best of traditional and modern Anglican worship, it should connect with the theme and explore the sacred to educate and engage. Music used should reflect the diverse worship experience of the wider Christian community. 2 Education Reform Act 1988 section 7(1) and the corresponding section of the Education Act 1993 3 Speech by David Thomson, Bishop of Huntingdon 2014 quoted in The Fruits of the Spirit: A Church of England Discussion Paper on Character Education (The Church of England Education Office 2015) page 13 4 Where there are joint schools the liturgies should reflect this status Care should be taken with the music and liturgy: the traditional and modern riches of Christian hymnody and music will be drawn upon, but schools should think about what is most appropriate, at a given time, for the spiritual life of their particular community.

Inspiring: Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter in a Church school to be inspirational. Worship should be formational and transformational: it should enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It should motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, they should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

There will always be those who are uncomfortable to enter through this open door of worship in our schools and so the Church of England recognises the right of withdrawal from collective worship for those parents or pupils who wish to exercise this option. This, and how to exercise this choice, should be explained fully in the school's collective worship policy and referenced on the school's website.

PART 2:

❖ **The Church of England Vision for Education Autumn 2016 p.10**
[The Church of England Vision for Education](#)

'The Church of England is (along with many others) a liturgical tradition, and encountering its worship is essential to understanding it and the God in whom we believe. The seasons of the church year rehearse the drama of Jesus Christ in the context of the larger biblical narrative, and they offer a means through which that narrative can be grasped and inhabited. Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this.'

PART 3:

❖ **SIAMS considerations – SIAMS Framework 2024 p.11**
[SIAMS Framework 2024](#)

IQ3 How is daily collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually?

IQ4 How does the school's theologically rooted Christian vision create a culture in which pupils and adults are treated well?

PART 4:

The Liturgical year cycle overview

