
# St Oswald’s CE Primary School

# Collective Worship Policy

**Last Review Date**: December 2016

**Next Review Date**: December 2018

**Suggested Frequency of Review** :Every 2 years

# Rationale

Under the Education Act 1996, all maintained schools must provide daily collective worship for all registered pupils. Recognising its historic foundation, St Oswald’s strives to preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at Parish and Diocesan level, and our approach to collective worship reflects this.

However, we also recognise that the school serves a very diverse community which includes members of other faith communities and cultures. Collective worship at St Oswald’s should also be a way of celebrating this diversity and promoting inclusion through valuing the beliefs and traditions of all members of our school.

# Aims

Our ‘Vision and Values Statement’ puts pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development at the heart of everything we do.

Our Instrument of Government states:

*‘The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.’*

Collective worship forms a key part of our strategy for achieving these aims.

Through Collective Worship, we wish to provide opportunities for pupils and staff to:

## Explore and understand our core Christian values and how they inform our school ethos

## Develop a sense of belonging, community and shared values

* Reflect on, respond to, and find meaning in significant issues, events and experiences in their own lives and those of others
* Understand the nature and purpose of prayer and reflection
* Understand and celebrate festivals in the Church’s year
* Learn about and respect the beliefs and practices of other faith communities
* Learn about the life of Jesus and other individuals or examples from history, literature or religion which illuminate key themes
* Develop a sense of wonder, awe and appreciation of the natural world
* Recognise and celebrate the strengths and achievements of all members of our school community
* Take on responsibilities and develop leadership and ownership by contributing to the planning and delivery of collective worship.

**How is collective worship planned?**

## Collective worship is planned on a termly basis as part of our ‘Values in Action Plan’. This identifies the core value for each half term, the specific aspects of this which will be addressed each week, and links with key celebrations / school events etc. The weekly themes are also listed on the school’s Weekly Improvement Plan (WIMP).

Planning of collective worship is led by the Headteacher, in consultation with the Vicar of St Oswald’s Church and the RE Co-ordinator. Opportunities for pupils to be directly involved in planning or leading collective worship are identified in the Values in Action plan.

Each phase takes responsibility for planning pupil-led collective worship based on the core value at the beginning and end of each half term.

The Values in Action Plan ensures that the ideas and values explored in Collective Worship can be developed through further cross-curricular work, discussion etc. in classes.

**Features of Collective Worship**

Collective worship will include some or all of the following:

1. Using a range of stimuli (musical, visual, drama, literature, symbols etc) to create atmosphere, encourage reflection or promote understanding
2. Using our ‘altar table’ and cross as a focal point, including use of colour to reflect the Church season
3. An opportunity for personal reflection or prayer
4. Lighting of a candle to signify and promote periods of reflection
5. Opportunities for pupils to participate actively as well as to listen and be silent
* The Vicar of St Oswald’s Church leads Collective Worship on a regular, planned basis.
* Visitors and speakers representing other religious communities and organisations are regularly invited into school to lead or participate in Collective Worship.
* Collective Worship takes place in whole school, phase or class groups.
* Key Christian festivals (Harvest, Christmas, Easter) are celebrated with a service at St Oswald’s Church, which is led by pupils and planned in partnership with the Vicar of St Oswald’s.

Displays are used to reinforce the themes covered in Collective Worship and promote individual and class reflection and discussion.

# The Right of Withdrawal

Collective Worship is an important occasion in our school and we encourage participation for everyone. However, we recognise the views of all parents and their legal right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship, as confirmed in the 1988 Education Act. Any parent can request permission for their child to be withdrawn from an act of Worship. Should such a request be made, the parent will be invited to discuss the matter with the Head teacher, in order that necessary arrangements can be made.

# Monitoring/Evaluation

The quality and impact of Collective Worship is monitored by:

* Regular monitoring of collective worship by the Headteacher / RE subject leader / a governor
* Monitoring activities including pupil voice led by the RE subject leader.
* Regular review, evaluation and planning meetings involving the Headteacher, the RE Co-ordinator and a foundation governor.
* The foundation governors have a key role in this process to ensure that legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to pupils is on the highest quality.

**Key Resources used for planning Collective Worship:**

‘Values for Life’ (Jumping Fish)

‘Roots and Fruits’ (Imaginor)

‘Worship Workshop’ website ([www.worshipworkshop.org.uk](http://www.worshipworkshop.org.uk))

[www.assemblies.org.uk](http://www.assemblies.org.uk)