



## “Let your Light shine”

Matthew 5:16

### The Polehampton C. of E. Schools

#### Collective Worship Policy

Review Period – every four years

#### Document History

Version	Issue Date	Comments	Total pages	Approved by chair of committee
1	17.1.13	First federation policy	4	
2	12.10.17	Reviewed – small change in terminology	4	
3	5.6.21	Updated in light of our viewed vision and values, guidance from C. of E. Education & our academy status	5	

#### “Let your light shine” Matthew 5:16

These words of Jesus are at the heart of our school’s vision. They inspire and motivate our whole school community. Jesus reminded us in Matthew’s gospel that we are lights for the world. As we seek to follow him, we share his light with others and change the world!

In our Collective Worship policy, we will live out our vision by creating a space in the day when we shine a light on each other and nurture the light we all have within us.



In 2021, The Church of England Education published [“A Guidance Document for Collective Worship in Church of England Schools – Inclusive Invitational Inspiring”](#) \*. It says...

*“.. in Church of England schools, collective worship is seen as more than a daily “awe and wonder” moment. It is **the unique heartbeat of the school** and is offered as part of the wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individual and together. ...*

*This form of encounter through worship should be truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality. This is an approach that seeks to meet the needs of all, where they may be on their journey of faith and belief.”*

### **Aims and objectives**

We want our collective worship to be “Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring” \*

Our collective worship will

- celebrate our schools’ vision “Let your light shine” Matthew 5:16
- explore our vision through our schools’ values to develop character, identity and contribute to academic progress and emotional wellbeing
- offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experience of prayer, stillness worship and reflection
- enable all pupils to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example, using music, art, silence, story, poetry, prayer, reflections, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship
- help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and develop understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God
- allow children to encounter other faiths and moments of community
- enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice,
- enhance pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- help pupils appreciate that we are ‘stewards’ of God’s world
- celebrate individual and collective achievements
- develop a sense of community within the school

*“It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used to facilitate worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching.”*

The Church of England Education’s [“A Guidance Document for Collective Worship in Church of England Schools – Inclusive Invitational Inspiring”](#)



### **Collective Worship and the Law**

*“Collective Worship in community schools is grounded in the historical past and enshrined in educational law to be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”. In Church schools, the requirement instead to reflect the Anglican status of the school is expressed in its trust deed liberates those leading collective worship to build on the rich, lived diversity of Anglican tradition and identity. In the same way as worship in churches is aspirational, constantly evolving and being reimagined, there is an expectation of a continuous, dynamic reimagining of what collective worship means in a Church school.”*

The Church of England Education’s [“A Guidance Document for Collective Worship in Church of England Schools – Inclusive Invitational Inspiring”](#)

Current [DFE guidance](#) stipulates that

- *Each pupil must take part in a daily act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn by their parents. This applies to academies with and without a religious designation.*
- *Academies with a religious designation must provide collective worship in accordance with the tenets and practices of the academy’s designated faith. It can also choose to reflect the other principal religions and those found in the local community.*
- *The above also applies to former voluntary-controlled (both Polehampton Schools were voluntary controlled) or foundation schools with a religious designation that have converted to academies. They must provide collective worship in accordance with the tenets and practices of the academy’s designated faith.*
- As Anglican Schools, we reflect the Anglican tradition of school worship. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school
- Participation in prayer is invited, never imposed, although we stress the importance of stillness, reflection and respect from everyone

### **Organisation of Collective Worship – see Collective Worship Overview**

- A typical week’s Collective Worship is as follows in both schools
  - Monday – lead by the Senior Leadership Team
  - Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday
    - singing and hymn practice
    - pupil led assembly
    - church team led
    - class assembly
    - teacher led
  - Friday – celebration assembly
- Each half term, the worship explores our vision through one of our values – this is then taken in the experience of everyday school life



- The structure of assemblies may include music, a song of praise, a story or talk, a story or reading from the Bible, a period of reflection, a prayer, for example, the school prayer and an exploration or reminder each day of the value for the half term.
- The tone and atmosphere of Collective Worship will vary and reflect the experience being created by the leader of the assembly.
- Parents are invited to attend class-led acts of worship or special celebrations
- The schools worship together in church at the end of each term to celebrate Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year; we also meet together for other special occasions during the year.
- Visitors and outside speakers are invited to lead our worship
- *COVID times – we continue with our collective worship, adjusting organisation to suit the restrictions of the time. We use a combination of pre-recorded, video conferencing, class or bubble or outside in larger groups. At any time, an assembly is posted each week on our website, for any child who is self-isolating.*

### **Roles and Responsibilities of the Collective Worship Co-ordinator**

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator has responsibility for managing the worship on a day-to-day basis, ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with.

- To ensure that all staff are aware of and use this policy document
- To plan an overall balanced programme of worship for the year
- To draw up assembly rotas
- To involve colleagues, pupils and visitors in worship
- To advise on planning, ideas and resources
- To be responsible for ordering, maintaining and displaying resources
- To administer a budget for Collective Worship
- To ensure that Collective Worship maintains a high profile in the School Development Plan
- To monitor and evaluate, with others, Collective Worship in all its forms
- To report to the Governing Body
- To arrange INSET for staff as required
- To keep up to date with recent publications, attend Diocesan courses and disseminate information and feedback to staff
- To liaise with the incumbent, governing body and Diocesan officers on matters relating to Collective Worship

### **Monitoring and Evaluating Collective Worship**

The Senior Leadership Team will



- check that practice matches aims and objectives which is to articulate and celebrate our vision and values
- observe children’s responses, enjoyment, engagement and experiences
- gather feedback from pupils and staff, both written and verbal – we collect these in a reflection book
- collect comments from parents, visitors and governors
- observe the extent to which pupils’ attitude and behaviors throughout the school day might be impacted on by their experiences in collective worship, though this is not an expectation
- review findings with “vision and values team”, which includes SLT and RE subject leaders
- discuss findings with staff and organise for training as required

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored by the Foundation Governors.
- the School Development Plan includes a section on Collective Worship which gives an indication of the intentions and arrangements for review where appropriate

The School and Community Committee of the Governing Body discusses “Collective Worship and Spiritual Life of the school” as a standing agenda item in every meeting.

### **The Right of Withdrawal**

- Parents have the right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship and/or church services and/or assemblies lead by the church team.
  - Parents do not have to explain or give a reason; however, school will be open to dialogue with parents about collective worship so parent can make informed decisions.
  - Parents will be asked to put their views in writing for our records.
  - The school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child.
- Staff also have the right to withdraw from Collective Worship.

Oxford Diocese website - <https://www.worshipworkshop.org.uk/>