

# Polehampton CE Infant and Junior Schools

## Collective Worship Policy



<b>Approval required by</b>	LGB
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<b>Date for review</b>	Spring 2027

Version	Date	Description
1	17.01.2013	First federation policy
2	12.10.2017	Reviewed – small change in terminology
3	05.06.2021	Updated in light of our viewed vision and values, guidance from C. of E. Education & our academy
4	January 2024	Updated as part of regular review.

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### Introduction

At Polehampton Church of England Infant and Junior Schools, our vision is "Let your light shine" (Matthew 5:16). Jesus reminded us in Matthew's gospel that we are lights for the world. As we seek to follow him, we can share his light with others and change the world. Supported by our school values of gratitude, friendship, perseverance, forgiveness, honesty and compassion, we seek to help pupils make positive choices in all they do. We follow our Christian values to enable everyone in our school community to let their light shine.

At Polehampton Church of England Infant and Junior Schools, we "let our light shine" within our collective worship time. In order to do this, we have a policy on collective worship to ensure our opportunities to let our lights shine are inclusive, invitational and inspirational. 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.

It should be noted that all references to 'parents' should be read as 'parents or carers'.

### Aims

In 2021, The Church of England Education published "A Guidance Document for Collective Worship in Church of England Schools – Inclusive Invitational Inspiring". It states the following:

**"Let your light shine" Matthew 5:16**

Gratitude - Friendship - Perseverance - Forgiveness - Honesty - Compassion

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*"...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."*

The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement also says the following:

*"Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together.*

*Such an approach is offered through a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person."*

We want our collective worship to be "Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring". Collective Worship gives pupils, staff and the school community the opportunity to flourish, experience and be a present part of the following:

- Celebrate our schools' vision to "Let your light shine" (Matthew 5:16).
- Explore our schools' values to develop character, identity and contribute to academic progress and emotional wellbeing.
- 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.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experience of prayer, stillness worship and reflection.
- 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
- Engage in an act of community togetherness.
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God (Christian or otherwise).
- Be still and reflect.
- Inspire children to think, question and reflect on their faith.
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events.
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness.
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts.
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes.
- Experience awe and wonder moments for the children.
- Visit different places of worship (Including other faiths).
- To instil Jesus' teaching of love (including kindness and compassion), respect for others and a curiosity to learn more about ourselves and others, courage to stand up for what we believe in and to aspire to be the best person we can be, and live in a Christlike way.
- Share each other's joys and challenges.
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar (and other faiths).

In line with the requirements of the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that collective worship achieves the following:

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- Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer and reflection.
- Experience and explore the varied liturgical and other traditions / festivals of the Church of England.
- Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, have access to regular training and Diocesan advice.
- Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.
- Teaches tolerance and respect for all faiths and beliefs, including those with no faith. This includes recognising the significance of other religious festivals to those within our school community.

### Implementation

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders – including staff, pupils, clergy and external visitors – in consultation with the collective worship leader. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping (e.g. whole school, key stage or class). Our school plans systematically and cohesively using appropriate resources and approaches in line with the schools' vision and values. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the long- and short-term planning of worship and this enables continuity.

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative worship, including prayer partners, playing games, singing, prayer, storytelling, reflection, symbolism, demonstrations, drama and art.

Our worship consists of four elements:

- **Gather**
  - We welcome the community to this act of worship. We are invited to prepare our hearts and minds to meet with God.
  - This may involve music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle.
- **Engage**
  - We engage with the big things and the little things in life
  - We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible
  - We listen to God's message and how consider how it might apply to our lives.
  - We share, for example, a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message.
- **Respond**
  - We respond to what we have heard and seen through prayer, silence, stillness and reflection.
  - We are given the invitation to worship God in different ways.
  - Pupils may, for example, discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing.
- **Send**
  - We share, for example, the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day, learning and/or behaviour.
  - We are sent out to love and serve one another, and to make a difference in the world, and we are all sent out with God's blessing.
  - We close with liturgy, a final prayer, music and the blowing out of our special candle.

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Pupils regularly lead prayers or parts of worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the collective appropriate staff during to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of one another.

A typical week's Collective Worship is as follows in both schools:

- Monday – led by the SLT
- Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday
  - singing and hymn practice
  - pupil led assembly
  - church team led
  - class assembly
  - teacher led
- Friday – celebration assembly

One of our school values is covered each half term. This is then taken in the experience of everyday school life.

### Impact of worship on our children

Daily acts of collective worship, in whatever form they take, have a positive impact on us as a community. Some of these benefits are as follows:

- Children will make better life choices.
- Pupils develop their own faith, spirituality or sense of self.
- Children are mindful of themselves and others.
- Pupils show respect and tolerance for all faiths and beliefs, including those with no faith.
- Confidence to ask and challenge ideas.
- Being grateful and enjoying life in all its fullness.

### Reviewing worship, including self-evaluation

The governing body will keep up to date with the latest guidance from the Church of England and continually work with school staff, governors, clergy and the Diocese of Oxford to ensure the highest quality worship is offered to children in the school. This may include attending Diocesan training, visiting the school to monitor/evaluate the effectiveness of worship and engaging with the school community.

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community against our school vision and values. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome ideas or suggestions from the school community. Outcomes of evaluations are shared amongst staff and discussed at governing body meetings. Continual review plays 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 Oxford (SIAMS).

The Local Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored. The LGB also ensures that the IQ statements are monitored for evidence and impact within LGB meetings and governor in-school monitoring.

### Parental withdrawal

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents, and parents are invited to contact the school office to arrange a meeting.

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