

Collective Worship Policy

1. Aims and objectives

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in a gathering as a church school family. This time together fully embraces our values of hope, faithfulness, courage, joy and love and we invite and enable everyone to take an active part in Collective Worship.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' we base our collective worship on the teachings of the Bible, Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. In Church schools the requirement must reflect the Anglican status of the school as expressed in its trust deed liberating 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 re-imagined there is an expectation of a continuous, dynamic reimagining of what collective worship means in the Church school.

We conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. In each and every act of collective worship some of the elements of worship (i.e. of 'giving worth to God') will be present.

At Cheveley CE Primary School we aim to-

Worship

- Providing an opportunity for the children to worship and reflect on God
- Teaching children how to worship
- Providing children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship forms, including symbols and imagery
- Enabling pupils to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer

Develop Spirituality

- Enabling children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- Enabling children to explore their own beliefs and discover their place in the world
- Heightening awareness of and encouraging the asking of ultimate questions / realities of life and providing the opportunity to reflect upon these.
- Helping our children to become aware of the faiths and non-faiths represented in our school and the wider community, developing acceptance and understanding
- Fostering feelings such as awe, wonder, fascination, thankfulness, mystery and joy
- Developing every child's spirituality and recognition of time for reflection through the day

Form Community

- Encouraging participation and response
- Developing in children a sense of community spirit
- Helping children to foster a feeling of belonging to a family and community outside of their home life
- Promoting a common ethos with shared values and reinforcing positive attitudes celebrate gifts, talents and achievements.
- Establishing, exploring, and reinforcing our chosen Christian values.
- Providing an opportunity for children to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, particularly the local church
- Inviting members of our community and local church to become memorable people for our children and create valued experiences

Courageous Advocacy

- Encouraging respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues
- Helping children to develop a feeling of empathy for others and to take action in response to poverty, inequality and global environmental issues

2. Planning

We hold a daily act of collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. This may be whole school worship in the hall or church, a key stage act of worship, or class worship. We remind children that collective worship is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings. We create an appropriate atmosphere and use Christian objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children and show the Trinitarian God. (Appendix One outlines our four stages of practice for our Collective Worship)

The teachers, Rev Dr Naomi, and our Worship Council enable the whole school to engage in Collective Worship. The Rector visits weekly to lead worship, support the staff and teach the children about the Christian faith.

We adopt themes for our collective worship from the traditions of the Christian faith, the teachings of Jesus, events of the Christian calendar and times of celebration. The whole school values are reinforced during Collective Worship so the children learn how important they are to hold as human beings living on God's world (Appendix Two outlines our School Values).

In every Collective Worship there will be elements of Anglican liturgy, including a greeting and response, choral worship, the saying of prayers (including the Lord's prayer), the Grace and moments of stillness and reflection. (Appendix one provides more detailed explanation of our practice).

Once a week our 'Celebration Collective Worship' is based upon the achievements and learning of the children both inside and outside of school. We encourage the children to participate in Collective Worship by showing their work to the other children and also certificates, medals or trophies achieved as individuals or in teams. This plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised underpinning our belief that everyone can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Parents are invited to attend our Celebration Collective Worship each week, and we encourage them to support their children, therefore promoting the community spirit of the school. Sharing in collective worship also helps to show parents a practical demonstration of the way the home and the schoolwork together to support the achievements of our children. Families are encouraged to attend our church service each half term and at other key points in the school year such as Harvest, Remembrance and Easter; our school choir and worship leaders with their parents help to lead the Saturday Special Carol Service for the whole community in church in mid-December.

We welcome governors' attendance at our Collective Worship at any time.

As a school we want our children to become more involved with Collective Worship as the Bible teaches us 'Jesus welcomed children and used them as models of faith when speaking to His followers' (Luke 18: 15-17). The children have the opportunity to participate in the worship through being a Worship Councillor, writing prayers or engaging in role-play or readings.

3. The Early Years Foundation Stage

All children are expected to attend the daily Collective Worship assembly.

4. Contribution of Collective Worship to teaching in other curriculum areas

Collective Worship underpins the success of children in Religious Education, SMSC, PSHE subject areas and in Safeguarding all our children.

5. Teaching Collective Worship to pupils with additional needs

At Cheveley we provide an inclusive environment where all pupils are valued, supported and challenged to reach their potential. Where necessary we adapt the curriculum to ensure that all pupils can enjoy their learning and achieve success.

6. Right to Withdraw from Collective Worship

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship however, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship. If appropriate, parents may like to provide suitable work during this time that should be related to their spiritual or religious pathway.

7. Health and safety

Appropriate risk assessments are completed for all visits off-site and on-site, if applicable. Visitors working with the children are always CRB checked and cleared.

8. Daily Organisation

Collective Worship is delivered by a variety of people, including all teaching staff, to support our children's development. (See Appendix Three for a daily timetable)

9. Monitoring and review

- The Head teacher and the Governors review the policy;
- SLT review the development, monitoring and assessment;
- RE Lead provides co-coaching, support, modelling, tracking progression of skills, resources, enriching the curriculum;

10. Additional Policies

We recognise that Collective Worship relates to many other areas of the curriculum and we have therefore written separate policies for these areas as identified below –

Religious Education

Appendix One

Detailed outline of our time together.

We plan for Collective Worship to cover 4 stages:

Gathering

We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, pictures, candles and Christian objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

On entry to our hall, the children and staff are met and greeted by members of our Worship Council. These leaders will welcome our church school family with smiles and greetings used in Christian worship.

Once inside the hall, there is music playing that is uplifting, engaging and inspiring. Additional members of the Worship Council team help to support pupils by encouraging and supporting their friends to participate with singing. This helps children to become more focused, reflective and think about the purpose of our gathering.

There is an altar-table at the front of our hall which provides a focal point. When all of the children have arrived, our Worship Leaders dress the altar with a Bible, cross and candle. As these 3 items are placed on the altar, the children are reminded of the Trinitarian God, the Bible for God the Father's creative word, the cross for God's Son, Jesus and the candle is lit to represent the Holy Spirit.

Once all the children have arrived, they are asked to respond to a 'Good Morning' message with a greeting from the Psalms or welcome such as 'The Lord be with you, And also with you'.

Engage

This is the story and teaching part of our Collective Worship. The story will normally come from the Bible in order to engage the children with the acts and person of God and Jesus' teaching. We help the

children to make links with their learning in the classroom, the school values and ultimately our vision, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' (Philippians 4:13). We ask the children to respond and reflect upon the world, their life and their beliefs.

The story or teaching is delivered in many different ways including: Storytelling, drama, videos, visual aids, games, quizzes, puppets or objects.

Respond

We allow time for reflection and spiritual development through moments of stillness, prayer and asking everyone present to think about the ultimate questions of life.

We encourage our children to participate joyfully with choral worship. The children are asked to stand and sing as a sign of respect. We enjoy praising the Lord with our voices and make it accessible to all children in our school through signing, actions and displaying words on a screen. We choose songs and hymns that are uplifting, enjoyable and encompass worshipping God.

We invite the children to pray as a time to talk to God or a time to be spiritual and thoughtful. We will say the Lord's Prayer during clergy Collective Worship and this may be spoken or sung. We also say 'The Grace' at the end of Collective Worship as part of the sending to start the day of learning.

Sending

During this time, we invite the children to think, reflect and respond to the Collective Worship. We aim to help the children to make connections from the Collective Worship to our school values, vision and learning in the classrooms. We may play calmer, more reflective Christian music to help the children leave to their learning in a quiet, reverent and focussed manner. The Collective Worship Leaders are positioned at the door to send the children back to the classrooms and encourage their friends to 'have a great learning

day' and 'to be the best they can be'.

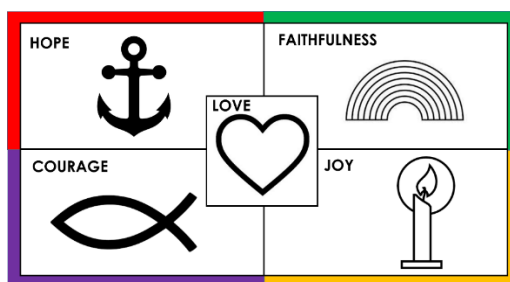
Appendix 2

Our Whole School Values

In 2019, the children, staff, parents and governors were asked to help review our school values. Below are the final 5 values. You can see these on our website, in our classrooms and in all correspondence from the school.

Our five values are linked to school's original vision statement of 'Dream, Believe, Work, Achieve'. Symbols were attached to each value along with a liturgical colour.

Hope
Faithfulness
Courage
Joy
Love



The school vision of Dream links to our Christian value of Hope. The symbol of the anchor represents the security of our hope anchored on Christ (cf. Hebrews 6:19). The liturgical colour of red reminds us that the Holy Spirit strengthens our hope.

The school vision of Believe links to our Christian value of Faithfulness. The symbol of the rainbow reminds us of God's promise of faithfulness to Noah (Genesis 9:17). The liturgical colour of green reminds us that faithfulness grows in the 'ordinary' seasons of lives.

The school vision of Work links to our Christian value of Courage, the ability to keep on trying even when learning or living are tough. The symbol of the ichthys (Jesus Christos, theioun uios sawter) reminds us of the courage of the first Christians confessing their faith when it was difficult or dangerous. The liturgical colour of purple is the colour of penitence but also preparation for great work.

The school vision of Achieve links to our Christian value of Joy as we rejoice that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (cf. Philippians 4:13). The symbol of the candle reminds us of the Light of Christ who strengthens us to achieve. The liturgical colour of gold is used for the great seasons of joy.

Underpinning all of our values is the Christian value of Love (cf. 1 Corinthians 13, 1 John 3, John 15 etc., passim). The heart is the universal symbol of love. The liturgical colour of white is used for the wonderful seasons when we perceived God's loving purposes for us.

Appendix 3

Timetable for Collective Worship

Monday – In the News and Choral Worship – Staff Led

Tuesday – Bible Focus – Rev Dr Naomi Led

Wednesday – Value Focus – Staff Led

Thursday – Key Stage Bible Story Focus – Staff Led

Friday – Celebration – Head teacher Led

Autumn – Old Testament Focus

Harvest Advent Christmas

Spring

Gospels

Easter Pentecost

Summer

Epistles

New Testament