



POCKLINGTON CE (VC) INFANT SCHOOL

Collective Worship

Date Reviewed:	SEPTEMBER 2024
Date Due for Review:	ANNUALLY
Contact Officer:	HEADTEACHER
Approved By:	FGB

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctiveness of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of perseverance, compassion, respect and truth and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and recognises and follows the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of collective worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

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 a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives. 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.

Therefore, Collective Worship at Pocklington CE (VC) Infant School is planned to explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.

- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing 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 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, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice
- Be inspirational and inclusive, engaging all learners. They can talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- Help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- An opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus and handbook. Parents' contact needs to be made with the Headteacher.

Planning Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by lighting a candle and welcoming everyone. Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4-stage structure of planning including 'Gathering' 'engaging' 'responding' 'sending'. There should also be space for evaluation.

The views of pupils about collective worship are sought. Collective Worship leaders open and close collective worship and plan and lead a collective worship once / term.

Governors are involved in monitoring Collective worship.

There are a number of resources available to form the basis of collective worship planning e.g. Roots and Fruits, Jack in a Box, Picture News, SPCK assemblies and resources from a range of Dioceses including Diocese of York and Guildford. The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by the headteacher.

Our pattern of Collective Worship

- Whole School Collective Worship (Reception – Year 2) is held on Monday and Thursday, taken by local incumbents or the Headteacher.
- Class Collective Worship is held once / week in KS1 and twice / week in Reception. KS1 holds a key stage collective worship once / week. Class and Key Stage Collective Worship are led by classroom teachers.
- Friday Collective Worship is our singing collective worship where we sing hymns / celebration songs appropriate to the season – we use a mixture of traditional and more contemporary songs. We also sing the Lord's Prayer. The singing is accompanied by Mrs Grieveson on the piano. In Friday Collective Worship, we also celebrate 'Stars of the Week' and choose children to sit on the Golden Table. Once a month we hold a Collective Worship to celebrate pupils' birthdays and those children who have been recognised for their leadership, personal development, physical development and behaviour.
- Whole school Collective Worship at All Saints Church is planned / led by Year 2 at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and in July.
- Within classrooms lunchtime and evening prayers are used daily. Our school prayer(s) were written by pupils. Pupils also chose a special song 'We are children of light' which we enjoy singing on a regular basis.

Visitors may on occasion deliver collective worship – they should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at our school and avoid proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general, the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

Monitoring and evaluation – Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. These are shared with governors and play 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 York (SIAMS).