



# **Collective Worship Policy**

### Document Information

Document Name	Collective Worship Policy
Document Author	Bethan Stacy
Document Approval	SLT
Document Status	Version 1.0
Publication Date	June 2025
Review Date	June 2027
Review Schedule	Bi-Annual
Distribution	School Intranet

### Version Control

Version	Issue Date	Amended by	Comments
1.0	September 2025	Created by Bethan Stacy	

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## Introduction

This policy should be taken and used as part of Ruishton Church of England Primary School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our vision and values as a Church of England school. A vision that is inclusive; recognising diversity and showing respect to all and working together as one community to give our children hope and a plan for their future (Jeremiah 29:11); one that they be inspired and strive to reach whilst with us and enjoying their educational journey.

Collective Worship occupies an important and unique place in the life of Ruishton Church of England Primary School. It provides opportunities for members of the school community to pause from activity, to gather, to remind themselves of God and to reflect upon the beliefs and values through prayer, praise and celebration.

Our school ethos is both underpinned and developed by our Christian values, teaching and reflection which are encountered during times of worship. To this end, all aspects of school life including the academic, social, recreational and pastoral are part of our giving to God in worship and praise.

Ruishton Church of England Primary School's aims and practice for Collective Worship are captured in the DfEE Circular 1/94, paragraph 50, which states:

*'Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in with the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and spiritual dimension of collective worship which will be Christian in particular and Anglican in general.'*

Above all, Collective Worship is understood to be an integral and essential feature of school life and serves to inform and offer to God all that is good in the life of our school.

## Legal requirements

### *Responsibilities*

The 1988 Education Reform Act stated that the daily act of collective worship should be part of a balanced curriculum, which promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. In our school, we intend for our children to be enthusiastic about attending Collective Worship; we encourage a sense of community and of sharing and caring; we provide opportunities to celebrate and pray. Collective Worship takes place in the main school hall as whole school gatherings or individual phases, as well as in classrooms.

At Ruishton Church of England Primary School, Collective Worship is understood to be most effective when it embraces the following:

- Single acts of Collective Worship should be part of a greater scheme or programme.
- A Collective Worship programme should provide for continuity and progression and serve to meet the pupils at an appropriate point in their spiritual and cognitive development.
- All groups who have an interest in the life of our school are to be involved in the planning of worship wherever appropriate.

### *Equal opportunities*

Parents/carers have the legal right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship provided they give written notification to the school. Teachers can also exercise their right to withdraw from leading or attending acts of Collective Worship, but attending 'assemblies' is part of a teacher's contractual duty.

## **Aims and Objectives**

Ruishton Church of England Primary School's aims for Collective Worship are summarised as followed:

- To help move pupils towards an awareness of God.
- For children to develop a sense of beauty, awe, wonder and mystery.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to reflect upon Christian and moral values.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to make connections between Christian stories, their own spirituality and the wider world.
- To foster a sense of community based upon Christian values.

## **Worship in school**

### *Leading Worship*

Collective Worship is led by a variety of people from the school, Church and local community.

We also provide Key Stage Two children with opportunities to plan, lead and reflect upon Collective Worship with the support of our Ethos Committee. Worships are planned for and reflected upon to ensure that we are providing the best experiences for the children and building upon knowledge and understanding of our values.

We have established a Children's Ethos Team, who are key part in this process, and we aim to develop their role, so they too will be integral to evaluating our Collective Worships and developing them further.

### *Expectations*

- Acts of Collective Worship should be prepared, presented and evaluated effectively.
- A programme of Collective Worship themes for the year are available to all teaching staff.
- A variety in presentation is important. Tools to aid delivery can include video recordings, drama, music, dance and stories.
- All leaders, readers and contributors should be aware of their involvement.
- High expectations of behaviour are expected throughout all acts of Collective Worship. It is our school's expectation that the children will sit quietly whilst waiting for the worship to

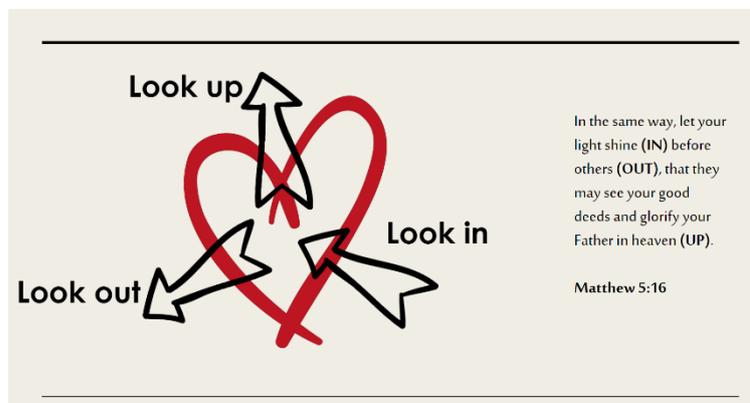
begin. This preliminary ‘quiet space’ is an important aspect of preparing for Collective Worship.

- To provide evidence of Collective Worships by saving any PowerPoint presentations on our intranet.

### The pattern of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place in our main school hall and in classes. We aim to provide children with immersive experiences at an age-appropriate level. In keeping with this, our worships take place in a variety of groupings: whole school, key stage, phase and class.

Our worships are structured using an in, out, up model to support children to contextualise the learning and themes thus supporting them to apply the values to their lives. **In:** look into ourselves, how do feel/show the value to myself? **Out:** look out to others, how do my actions impact others? **Up:** look up to God or our world, how do my actions impact the world? How am I following what God wanted?



Our worships follow the Values for Life programme, and we focus upon six key values across the year. Each of the 6 values are displayed in classrooms and referred to with the children.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
<b>Value for Life</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Respect</b>	<b>Compassion</b>	<b>Perseverance</b>	<b>Truthfulness</b>	<b>Hope</b>
<b>Weekly themes</b>	Taking responsibility for what we say -James 3 Taking responsibility for our time -Proverbs 6:6-8 Taking responsibility for managing our anger -Matthew 21 The 10 commandments Taking responsibility for our actions -Matthew 25	Respect for God's creation -Creation story Respect for sacred objects -Matthew 26 Valuing others -Matthew 7:12 Advent Christmas	God's compassion for his people -Footprints in the sand poem Showing compassion for others by sharing -Mathew 14 Compassion for neighbours in need -Luke 10:25-37 Compassion for the poor -Mark 6:34 Having the courage to care -The Good Samaritan	Persevering to finish the job -A time to build Persevering to the end -Matthew 2:13-15 God's persevering love -The lost sheep Encouraging others to keep going -Acts 11:24 Perseverance and self-belief -The hare and the tortoise	Choosing the truth -Genesis 3 Standing for the truth Living without lies -Genesis 27 Searching for the truth -Matthew 13:44-46 Having courage to be honest -Ephesians 4:15 Making the right choices -Zechariah 8:16	

### Worship in the wider community

Whenever appropriate, children and adults should have the opportunity to worship alongside members of the wider community. Our children will be given opportunities to worship at St George's

Church, Ruishton at key times throughout the academic year. This includes a Class Worship to Parents.

### *Visitors*

Ruishton Church of England Primary School encourages visitors to contribute to or lead Collective Worship, particularly at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. When outside speakers take part in acts of Collective Worship, we ensure that they are carefully briefed about the school's policy.

## **The Role of a Collective Worship Coordinator**

- To ensure that our chosen values are meaningful to our pupils and staff.
- To embed our school's vision and values across all aspects of school life.
- To support staff by providing resources and advise on courses to assist professional development.
- To monitor and evaluate collective worship within the school with the aid of the Pupil Ethos Committee.

## **Conclusion**

At Ruishton Church of England Primary School, we are confident that our approach to Collective Worship is educationally pertinent and of key importance to the spiritual, moral, cultural and intellectual development of our pupils. We believe that our Collective Worship policy embodies an integrity which parents and teachers alike would be pleased to acknowledge.

## **Link to Other Policies**

- Faith and Beliefs Policy
- Equality and Diversity

## **Review and Monitoring**

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years.