



**Deanery C.E. Primary School**  
Academy Status

# **Collective Worship Policy**

**January 2025**

# The Deanery School Christian Ethos

*Our School Motto – 'Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam'  
Translated this simply means 'To the Greater Glory of God'.*

## Vision

We believe that everything we do is a faithful response to God's faithfulness, shown to us through Jesus Christ. Our vision is to reflect God's Glory in every season of life, in all aspects, from the little things, to the big.

## Beliefs and Values

We believe that God's heart is for his children to thrive in a happy, secure, and caring environment at the Deanery. It is an essential part of our Christian ethos that we thank God for how he has demonstrated peace, love, faith, joy, grace and hope to us. We seek to reflect these core values throughout all areas of life in the school.

We believe that education, strengthened by our faith, is the vehicle with which children can achieve their full potential.

## School Culture

At the Deanery we aim to provide opportunities and experiences for everyone to learn and develop their social, creative and academic skills within a motivating and stimulating environment.

### We aim to:

- Foster an environment that is enriched spiritually, morally, ethically and socially through the Christian faith.
- Value each child as unique, regardless of faith, ability, gender or ethnicity.
- Nurture children to be polite, respectful and considerate towards one another. Offer a range of opportunities and experiences to develop their confidence, self-esteem and independence.
- Encourage each child to fulfil their potential within all areas of the curriculum.
- Promote knowledge and understanding through a secure, stimulating and enriched environment.
- Create a broad educational experience that is enriched both morally and spiritually through partnership with staff, governors, parents, the local community, parishes of the Deanery and Birmingham Diocese.
- To enable each child to value themselves and have aspirations for the future.
- To recognise everyone's place in the wider community.

## Legal requirements

There are two legal requirements for collective worship:

- A daily act of worship for all pupils (Education Act 1996)
- It must be in accordance with the school's Trust Deed  
'The daily act of worship required by law in the school shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England'

## Intent of Collective Worship

At Deanery collective worship is a highly valued part of the school day as it is the time when we gather together to affirm what is important to us, to our school and to our world. We take care to plan our collective worship so that it is inclusive, invitational, and inspiring. In our times of collective worship together, the school affirms the claims of Christianity which underpin the values of the school. It provides an opportunity for pupils to encounter God, whilst seeking to be relevant to, and inclusive of, all. It reflects our Anglican tradition as well as exploring with pupils and staff a variety of ways in which Christians worship God.

In acts of Collective Worship in our school it is recognised that in our school community, some members will come from families with a commitment to the Christian faith, others from families with a commitment to another faith and yet others will have no particular commitment to any tradition. Therefore the content and language of collective worship allows for different levels of response. It invites rather than coerces.

Collective worship in our school influences the way that we live together as a community and before God. Members of the community are challenged to think, act and live differently as a result of these times together.

At Deanery school Collective Worship offers a space to all:

Spiritual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to think about God.</li> <li>to make a response to God.</li> <li>to explore a relationship with God.</li> <li>to enjoy being in the presence of God.</li> <li>to contemplate the awesomeness of God.</li> <li>to offer adoration, praise and thanksgiving to God.</li> <li>to listen to God.</li> <li>to get a sense of things unseen.</li> <li>to explore personal belief.</li> <li>to feel a sense of belonging to a group that shares and celebrates together, as well as being thoughtful or sad together.</li> <li>to experience a feeling of connectedness to others in the world and a sense of responsibility towards them.</li> <li>to reflect upon ourselves and our lives as seen as part of a bigger picture.</li> <li>to wonder.</li> <li>to gain inspiration.</li> <li>to receive a challenge to live differently.</li> <li>to rejoice in being unique and precious.</li> <li>.....to be, rather than do ....</li> </ul>
Educational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to learn about different ways of worshipping.</li> <li>to learn about the faith of the local church communities.</li> <li>to participate in marking important features of the church calendar.</li> <li>to explore the Christian values of the school of love, joy, faith, grace, peace and hope.</li> <li>to use stillness and quietness.</li> <li>to have a quiet moment in a busy day.</li> <li>to celebrate gifts, talents and achievements.</li> </ul>

In satisfying these aims the following principles are also observed:

Inclusive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... whatever the age, aptitude or background of school community members.</li> <li>... where the integrity of each is respected.</li> <li>... drawing upon the leadership expertise of many adults and pupils.</li> <li>... enabling children to explore and evaluate their beliefs.</li> <li>... sharing worship from time to time with parents, governors and members of the local community.</li> </ul>
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It is very important that everyone who participates in worship should do so with an expectation and recognition that worship is a special occasion. The children are therefore required to enter and leave the hall quietly. We try to ensure that an atmosphere of worship awaits them as they arrive. This is usually achieved through music.

Each hall has a mural encouraging reflection. Each year group also has a reflective area including space to respond to the week's assemblies with relevant images and questions. Children are invited to respond with their own thoughts or questions.

## Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place in a variety of places following the pattern outlined below with nursery children joining reception and KS1 for some assemblies early in the year and more routinely once a week from the Spring term onwards.

### Weekly

	EYFS and KS1	KS2
Monday	1-1.15pm Class Worship in classrooms using Picture News and including a celebration of achievements out of school.	3.10-3.25pm Class Worship in classrooms using Picture News and including a celebration of achievements out of school.
Tuesday	1-1.15pm Class prayer	3.10-3.25pm Face to face Collective Worship in the hall
Wednesday	9-9.15am Face to face Collective Worship in the hall	3.10-3.25pm Face to face Collective Worship in the hall
Thursday	1-1.15pm Singing worship	3.10-3.25pm Singing worship
Friday	9-9.15am Face to face Collective Worship in the hall	3.10-3.25pm (or 1.15-1.30pm) Class prayer

### Annually

When	Where	Who is involved
<b>Autumn 1</b>		
Harvest service	St John's	KS1 + R led by year 2
Harvest service (Communion service)	St John's	KS2 led by Y4
<b>Autumn 2</b>		
Nativity Play	School hall	Y1
Christingle service	St John's	Y2
Christmas service	St John's	KS2 led by Y4 and Y6
<b>Spring 1</b>		
Mother's Day service	St John's	KS1 led by year 1
Mother's Day service	St John's	Y3
<b>Spring 2</b>		
Easter service (Communion service)	St John's	KS1 + R led by reception
Easter service (Communion service)	St John's	KS2 led by Y5
<b>Summer</b>		
Leaver's service (Communion service)	St John's	Y6 and Y5

### Biannually

'Special Event' day/week e.g. Worship day involving our community and led by the worship council.

## **Leadership**

Each assembly is led by a member of staff according to an agreed termly rota. All members of teaching staff are encouraged to contribute in this way.

Sutton Coldfield Deanery Clergy, community representatives and clergy from other denominations are invited into each Key Stage assembly on a regular basis to talk to the children. Other visitors including governors are also encouraged to visit school and take part in our worship. The pupil led worship council lead assembly once each term using the seeing anew approach.

## **Planning**

A two year cycle of themes has been developed and discussed with local clergy. Year one of the cycle follows the story of the Bible whilst year two of the cycle is linked to our school values. They are intended to be detailed enough to provide both continuity and development of themes and are sufficiently broad to allow a variety of people to lead the assembly in their own distinctive way. Many resources are used to support these themes including Roots and Fruits, prayer spaces in schools and Christian Aid. Alternatively, class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur in the curriculum during the week. On occasions it is recognised that those leading worship may feel that they need to respond to local or national events. We are actively encouraging pupils to make a contribution to planning and helping to lead acts of collective worship with the worship council leading one assembly each term using the seeing anew approach. Other pupil councils also lead acts of worship.

Our Newsletter shares our worship focus with children and parents fortnightly.

## **Recording**

In order to monitor the delivery of the planned themes and to help in evaluation and improvement to the planned cycle, a record of all assemblies is kept. This includes pupil comments.

## **Monitoring**

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met, but the head teacher has the statutory accountability for ensuring that collective worship takes place. The nominated person with specific responsibility for collective worship in our school is the subject leader. The subject leader liaises with the link governor for collective worship, children on the worship council and clergy in the planning, monitoring and evaluating of collective worship.

The findings are regularly reported to the Head Teacher and other Governors through the Head Teachers Report.

## **The content and style of worship**

Within collective worship we provide a wide variety of stimuli to help pupils to reflect upon and respond to the central theme. These include but are not limited to:

Story, music, PowerPoint images, poetry, drama, puppets, games, questioning, singing and praying.

As we are an Anglican school we reflect aspects of Anglican worship in the following ways

- We use the Bible as a source of Christian teaching, and give it a prominent place in our worship. We draw upon the teaching of Jesus and explore the relevance of his teaching in today's world.
- We follow the cycle of the Anglican year; Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost.
- Our worship follows a liturgical pattern of gathering, engaging, responding and sending.
- Meditation and silence are used.
- Using Anglican sentences and responses (eg Go in peace to love and serve the Lord... In the name of Christ, Amen)
- Celebrating the Eucharist

Children routinely contribute to leading worship in a variety of ways including:

- Worship council members leading the prayers each day in KS2

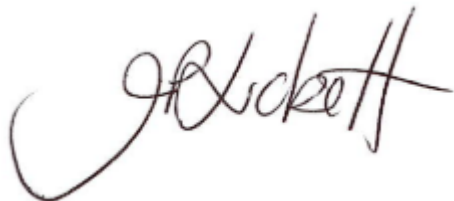
- Assisting in the organisation of worship (PowerPoint, ushers, chairs, welcoming visitors etc.)

### **Parental Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. If a parent wishes to consider this option, the Head Teacher should be approached.

Policy reviewed and amended by Jennifer Richardson

January 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Lockett', written in a cursive style.

Approved by Jayne Lockett, Head Teacher

Presented to the Governing Body