



"I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full." John 10:10

Collective Worship Policy

Summer 2022

Policy Review Details	
This policy will be reviewed in line with our policy review schedule.	
Date of Issue: Summer 2022	
Governor Signature	Headteacher Signature
Date of next review: Summer 2025	

Version Control

Change Record

Date	Author	Version	Reason for Change
June 2021	J Whittaker	New	Revised policy due to update to school motto, vision and values. Included change to Epworth Trust.
08.06.22	J Whittaker	2	Updated some of the language re: spiritual development to include core phrases used with children i.e. mirrors, windows, doors, wows and ows. Revised weekly timetable for collective worship.

Introduction

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to Worship God and to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging, relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

At Summerseat Methodist Primary School, we see the value in collective worship and believe this contributes significantly to the ethos of our school. We embrace our statutory duty to provide 20 minutes of collective worship a day. This time will enable pupils to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues.

The act of daily collective worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character with a specific focus on the Methodist Values of the school; however, other faiths and cultures will be represented in line with our curriculum drivers: diversity and inclusion. (*Drivers: Aspirations, Diversity, Inclusion*)

This policy outlines how our school implements collective worship within our daily routines, including the aims of collective worship and how pupils can be withdrawn.

This policy will be implemented alongside the RE policy.

Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, 'collective worship' is an act which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective worship is a time when individuals come together, and reverence or veneration is paid to a divine being or power.

To 'take part' in collective worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from pupils even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the act of worship on a particular occasion.

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Summerseat Methodist Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- Share common aims and Christian values including our own values from our vision
- Share a peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection
- Celebrate God's creation, our achievements and special times in our lives
- Explore together the world in which we live- celebrating our diverse society
- Explore our vision, common ethos and what it means to be a pupil at Summerseat Methodist Primary School

- Reinforce positive attitudes

For the Pupils:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing *opportunities* to:

- Worship God
- Reflect on that which is considered worthy
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Explore their own beliefs
- Develop their own spirituality (*using mirrors, windows, doors approach*)
- Reflect on the direction of their lives
- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Participate and respond via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered
- Reflect on what it means to be human in our diverse society
- Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs
- Consider the wonders and worries of the world (*awesome and awful / wows and ows*)
- Plan, lead or contribute to discussions on key themes and topics

Guidelines

The Trust Deed of this school makes provision for denominational collective worship in accordance with the practices of the Methodist Church. Guidance from the Methodist Church will support the collective worship of the school.

The responsibility for co-ordinating acts of collective worship lies with the Headteacher. 'Worship' must reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and it should be concerned with reverence or veneration to God. However, worship in a school will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to 'collective worship' rather than 'corporate worship'.

Traditionally, collective worship consists of a sequence of events woven together to make a coherent whole. It may include a number of activities which are not specifically worship in the strict sense, but which nevertheless contribute to the sense of occasion.

The usual pattern of daily collective worship, depending on circumstances, may include a varying combination of some of these elements:

- **Prayer**
- **Silence for reflection or prayer**

- *Singing*
- *Readings / stories / video clips / images*
- *Exposition*

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich class work through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice.

To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it will address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

Management, Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship

Responsibility for the implementation of the school's policy lies with the headteacher.

Management, monitoring and evaluation of collective worship in each stage and throughout the school are the responsibilities of the headteacher in consultation with the Local Advisory Board.

A record for each act of Worship is kept by the headteacher.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall, or the classroom or outdoors. Worship is also held at Rowlands Methodist Church.

Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 20 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Worship usually has the following pattern although we adopt a flexible approach:

Day	Focus	Lead
Monday	Values Assembly <i>This will include reference to topical / seasonal / school focus items as appropriate</i>	Mrs Whittaker
Tuesday	'Praise' music assembly – As a Methodist school, worship through	Teacher Rotation

	singing is very important to us and the weekly theme is explored through hymns and prayer	
Wednesday	Picture News – to ensure children know what is happening in the wider world and how this links to faith and values	Miss McQuaid
Thursday	The bible and stories from other faiths	Minister Tom King (<i>Fortnightly</i>) / Class based worship (<i>Fortnightly</i>)
Friday	Shine Assembly – we celebrate all that has happened during the week. We share school news and certificates are awarded for learning and demonstrating our Christian Values.	All staff

During all of our collective worship sessions, we say together our school prayer and also reflect on John Wesley's Rule. Our children are regularly involved in leading different aspects of our worship including preparing the hall, singing, prayer and opportunity for reflection.

Collective worship will be designed around the calendar year and key Christian celebrations along with some from other faiths. There will also be a half termly focus on a school or Christian value and how this can be lived out.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and meditation exercises in the curriculum generally and at the end of the morning and afternoon.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

We expect all children to attend assembly. 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.

Parents will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher following a request for withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the pupil taking part in
- The practical implications of their withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.

This policy will be reviewed by the Local Advisory Board in summer 2025 or earlier if significant changes are made.