



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

Collective Worship Policy

Summer 2025

Policy Review Details	
This policy will be reviewed in line with our policy review schedule.	
Date of Issue: Summer 2025	
Governor Signature	Headteacher Signature
Date of next review: Summer 2028	

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.
10.05.25	J Whittaker	3	Included vision, values and safeguarding statement Updated school drivers In aims, referenced trust vision and values alongside those of the school. Included a section to explain Epworth Worship Together as part of the worship cycle. Throughout, have changed responsibility for coordinating collective worship to the Head of School.

Summerseat Methodist Vision & Values

At Summerseat Methodist Primary, our vision, ethos and values are at the core of everything we do. They underpin our teaching and learning, and provide an environment which prepares our children to become lifelong learners; creating a safe and inclusive learning environment that nurtures individuality and enhances potential.



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

As a church school, we have identified and uphold the following core Christian values that help us achieve our ethos and vision: joy, teamwork, love, respect, care, trust, forgiveness and equality.



Safeguarding Statement

At the Epworth Education Trust we recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. We work to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice. The procedures contained in the Safeguarding Policy apply to all staff, volunteers and governors

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: *Aspiration, Diversity, Community*

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 the school vision alongside those of Epworth Education Trust
- 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 Head of School. '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'. There will be a focus on ensuring this is invitation and inclusive.

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:

- ***Call to worship***
- ***Prayer***
- ***Silence for reflection or prayer***
- ***Group reflection or discussion***
- ***Singing***

- *Readings / stories / video clips / images*
- *Quotes of the week*
- *Resources will include secular texts and quotes alongside those from the Bible and world views*

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 Head of School.

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

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

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	School Values Assembly <i>This will focus on school values</i>	Executive Headteacher / Head of School
Tuesday	'Picture News' / Methodist Minister – Picture News supports children to know what is happening in the wider world. During this time, we model and	Teacher Rotation

	encourage children to be courageous advocates for social justice. We talk about how we could show our 'Love in Action' as 'Agents of Change' -Methodist minister attends every fortnight and leads worship linked to a school value.	
Wednesday	Epworth Worship Together – A shared Trust worship to foster a sense of belonging and support meeting the vision.	Class Staff
Thursday	Class Worship – Follows on from Epworth Worship Together (Floor Books)	Class Staff
Friday	Shine Assembly – we celebrate all that has happened during the week. We share school news and certificates are awarded for learning, demonstrating our Christian Values and any examples of 'Love in Action'.	All staff

As a Methodist school, worship through singing is very important to us and song features heavily in all our acts of collective worship.

Our children are regularly involved in leading different aspects of our worship including preparing the hall, singing, prayer and opportunity for reflection. They help us develop (plan), deliver and dissect (evaluate) acts of worship. We seek feedback through staff, pupil and visitor response sheets.

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.

Epworth Worship Together

As part of the Epworth Education Trust, all the schools are supported to flourish through a distinctively Christian ethos that permeates every aspect of school life. Collective worship is seen as central to this, shaping identity, building community, and grounding practice in Methodist values, traditions and beliefs.

Epworth Worship Together (EWT) is a Trust-wide initiative that is used as a class collective worship per week. It reinforces the vision of being a family of schools working together so that all flourish. Each school contributes to EWT by leading worship sessions during the year, typically no more than 3–4 times, with flexibility in how children are involved.

Worship is planned centrally with weekly themes linked to Bible stories, Christian values, other world faith festivals, and Trust priorities. Sessions follow a consistent structure including: a call to worship, theme introduction, Biblical link, reflection, prayer, and a worship song. Resources provided include a video, song link, and planning sheet to ensure consistency and ease of delivery.

Live Zoom worship takes place once per term, led by the central team with contributions from schools across the Trust, further strengthening the sense of belonging and shared purpose.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

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 Head of School 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.

We do aim to make all worship invitational and inclusive and will be happy to discuss specific worship content.

This policy will be reviewed by the Local Advisory Board in summer 2028 or earlier if significant changes are made.