Collective Worship Policy 2025-26

Inclusive Invitational Inspiring

Introduction

In Church of England schools, daily Collective Worship is seen as 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 and spirituality, both as individuals and together.

Collective Worship is central to Fringford C of E Primary School as it strengthens and supports the Christian distinctiveness and spiritual development of our school and reaffirms our vision and core values. It celebrates our place in the community and is an essential component of an education that enables all pupils and adults to flourish.

Our Vision

Roots to Grow, Wings to Fly

Our Vision takes inspiration from the Parable of the Mustard Seed:

"Jesus told them another parable: the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

Matthew 13:31-32

We believe that:

- Children and adults are nurtured, allowing them to flourish during their time here, preparing them for the next stage of their journey.
- Each individual is like a mustard seed, which grows by being part of our school and is supported by our whole school community.

- All of our pupils have the potential to do well, to succeed in their learning and to become a valued member of society.
- Every member of our school community is valued and cherished; both as an individual and for the contribution they make to the school.
- Children are supported as they grow emotionally, academically and spiritually.
- Like the tree that the seed in the parable becomes, we aspire for our school to be a place where everyone feels at home; for us all to become the people that God calls us to be.
- Big things can come from small beginnings; who knows what great things our pupils and staff will achieve in the future?

Inclusive, Invitational, and Inspiring

Inclusive

Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. At Fringford, pupils and their families can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. We acknowledge that there are pupils and staff in our school that will come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, many pupils will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Pupils will be given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There will be space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. Collective worship will not be 'done to' but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community. It is recognised that pupils will bring their own experience to worship. Inclusion welcomes pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship. Although part of a national legislative framework, Collective Worship at Fringford

grows out of the local context and out of pupils' experience, including their cultural backgrounds.

Invitational

Worship at Fringford is invitational. Worship will allow the freedom for those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults will always only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and will be invited to pray in their own way. Prayer will always be accompanied by the option to reflect.

Inspiring

Worship will be formational and transformational. It will enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It will motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational Collective Worship, they will be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It will encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

Intent

Collective Worship at Fringford C of E Primary School is important to us as a school community. It aims to enable pupils and adults to flourish spiritually. Spirituality is taught through the Windows, Mirrors, Doors approach as described in our Spiritual Development Policy. It is the context in which the language of spirituality, which we use as a school, is regularly and explicitly shared. Collective Worship provides the opportunity for pupils to become aware of the importance of reflection and how our positive and negative experiences can be formative. It also provides a real sense of being present and still, which are often linked to invitations to pray and reflect. Through daily Collective Worship, pupils are offered a space to hear the Christian story. Pupils are given time to consider

their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service, through reflection on Bible verses and our school values.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship. Collective Worship is regarded as an essential part of the development of the whole child and as such is recognised by staff and governors as an important part of daily learning. We expect all children to attend but 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. The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship.

Planning and Organisation

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship in our school either as a whole school or in classes. The structure of Collective Worship varies across the week but always follows the "Gather, Engage, Respond, Send" pattern.

Collective Worship follows our school vision and values and is structured around:

- Bible stories
- Big ideas
- School values
- Religious events and special days
- Special events in the life of the school and wider community

On Fridays, families are invited to join us in an assembly to celebrate achievements. These allows them to be part of our Collective Worship and join us as part of the community.

Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Thought for the Week	Values Worship	Singing Worship	Community Worship	Celebration

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.

Collective Worship is led by different staff within the school, including the Headteacher. It is also led by clergy and visitors from our local church and community. 'Open the Book' is an approach used as part of Community Worship. It is a programme for schools organised by the Bible Society. Stories are presented in dramatic form with many of the storytellers dressed up in costume, acting out the stories as they are narrated.

Children are encouraged to be involved in leading Collective Worship. This will take the form of preparing the hall for worship, sharing prayers and songs and leading worship on an issue for which they would like to raise awareness.

Gather, Engage, Respond and Send

Gather

Purpose: To create a welcoming and focused atmosphere.

As pupils and staff enter the hall they are encouraged to be still. Three candles will be lit to symbolise the Trinity and the presence of God.

Engage

Purpose: To share the message and content of the act of worship often through a story, reading, discussion and/or singing

A lesson about a spiritual or moral theme will be shared with pupils and staff in a way that is engaging to all.

Respond

Purpose: To provide opportunities to reflect, discuss, or creatively respond to the message.

Pupils and adults will be invited to respond to the message in a variety of ways across the week: prayers, singing, writing reflections, drawing, or participating in a group discussion.

Send

Purpose: To inspire the school community to consider how to integrate the message or moral in their own lives.

Collective Worship will end with a prayer or reflection on the theme of the day/ week.

Monitoring and Evaluation

As a school, we regularly evaluate our approach to Collective Worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors. We also welcome the parents' contributions through surveys, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. All leaders of Collective Worship are asked to reflect on their own practice.