Dunnington C of E VA Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

We Care, We Believe, We Succeed – Together

Our Christian Vision

'Encourage one another and build each other up' (1 Thessalonians 5: 11)

Our Vision is to place the child at the heart of everything we do. It is to work together, where everyone encourages each other to be a partner in learning.

We aim to provide a safe, happy, caring and stimulating community, where every child is given the opportunity to reach their true potential and to celebrate their successes. Within our learning environment, children will:

- develop a thirst for knowledge, they will be encouraged to raise questions and develop their thinking and learning skills.
- develop physically, emotionally and spiritually, ensuring they are equipped for the ever-changing and demanding world in which we live.

In our school we will:

- respect each other's beliefs
- care for each other and the environment
- connect with the wider community

In learning and teaching we will set high standards and aspire for excellence in everything we do, ensuring that our curriculum is relevant and purposeful. We are determined to create an inclusive culture of learning where all children are challenged in their thinking, discover their talents, achieve to the best of their abilities and become motivated and resilient life-long learners.

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Policy Approved by	Full Governing Board
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Signed By Chair of Governors (Emma Daniell)	
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1. Introduction

This policy has been prepared by the governors and headteacher with assistance from local Christian leaders and the Diocese. It acknowledges the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group.

The headteacher and governing body have responsibility to ensure a daily act of collective worship. The headteacher coordinates acts of worship, plans themes, invites and liaises with visiting speakers and ensures a record is kept of the content. Collective worship supports our Christian vision that by sowing the seeds of curiosity, creativity, compassion, faith, hope and courage, pupils flourish as valued members of the world community, as educated citizens and as part of God's creation.

At Dunnington C of E Primary School, we reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school and its care for all who work here. Children are helped to understand and share in the meaning of Christian worship. It draws on the whole of the curriculum and celebrates all aspects of life in school. Although of mainly Christian character (The Education Reform Act 1988 stipulates that in county schools, most acts of collective worship in any school term must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character"), other main faiths, beliefs and ways of life are also explored and respected.

It is envisaged that within its inclusivity all pupils should be able to respond in some way to the opportunity offered to them in collective worship. This means that the worship should be distinct from ordinary school activities in that it reflects our distinct Christian vision for the school, the spiritual aspects of life and may be concerned with experiences that stretch into what is not totally understood and beliefs about life that are still being thought through.

2. Purpose

Our central aims of collective worship are to:

- Enable children and staff to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition.
- To highlight and promote the school's distinctive Christian vision and aims.
- Lead the school community to the threshold of worship in order to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Seek to deepen and widen the experience of faith and encourage those of no faith so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- Use celebration, silence, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth.
- Use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to participate and lead worship.
- Encourage all present to explore their beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework.
- Raise an awareness through reflection of ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- Provide an opportunity for pupils to reflect on key issues in their lives, to celebrate their work in school and to recognize the importance of religious belief for people from across the world.
- Reaffirm, strengthen and practice key Christian values (eg. love, peace, compassion, forgiveness, self giving) and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community.
- Nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally.
- Provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterized by feelings such as awe, wonder, appreciation, gratitude, respect and reverence.
- Develop a sense of community within the school, the locality and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions.
- Foster a concern for the needs of others.

3. Cycle of Worship

Collective Worship is timetabled to take place on a daily during the week. The cycle of worship follows the pattern of the church year and incorporates the half termly school Christian value, whilst providing the flexibility to respond to current local, national or global issues. A range of people, including local faith groups, members of staff, pupils and visitors lead and contribute to the planning of collective worship.

4. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole school cycle of self-review, achieved over time by asking all stakeholders to reflect on school worship.

4.1 Monitoring

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the headteacher, governing body, pupils, parents and the RE subject leader. Useful strategies for evidence collecting include:

- Written observations – pupil worship diaries.
- Observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- Formal observations with feedback – SLT and governors
- Seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, local clergy and visitors
- Holding regular discussion with colleagues
- Written records of all collective worship summarising key elements – pupil diaries
- Annual action plan and report – submitted to headteacher

4.2 Evaluation

Information gathered as part of monitoring will be analysed to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of collective worship by the headteacher, foundation governor and key stakeholders.

4.3 Review

The policy will be reviewed every three years. All staff and visitors leading collective worship will be provided with a copy of the policy.

5. Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

A daily act of worship is held daily for all children regardless of their background, culture or religion. Worship celebrates differences and encourages respect and dignity. Local faith representatives and community groups regularly support worship and the development of worship provision. Opportunities for children to appreciate the stories, celebrations and key figures from other religions are also built into the planning of worship. All leaders of worship are supported in accessing resources and regular CPD.

6. Right to Withdraw

A parent's right to withdraw his/her child from part or all of the act of collective worship is confirmed in the Education Reform Act 1988. Collective worship, however, should provide an opportunity for worship which is appropriate to all participating pupils.

If any parents exercises the right to withdraw from worship alternative activities will be provided in consultation with the child's parents. The Policy for Collective Worship at Dunnington CofE School follows the guidance of:

- Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998 – Chapter VI
- Warwickshire SACRE Guidelines on Collective Worship in Maintained Schools.

7. Guidelines

Collective worship is held daily at the beginning of the day (Mon – Thurs) and at the end of the day on Fridays.

All children attend the daily act of worship unless withdrawn by parental request. Children experience stories, celebrations, presentations, festivals and Anglican rituals, including candles to represent the trinity and a copy of the Bible and the cross on a table at the front of the room.

There is a half-termly theme planned in advance based on the core theological concepts and in line with the Christian calendar which also includes events and religious festivals important to the school and its community, as well as work in progress in the curriculum. In its overall planning, collective worship contains elements that relate specifically to spiritual development, the traditions of Christian belief, the Anglican tradition and which accord a special status to Jesus Christ.

Collective worship should not exclude or alienate pupils who do not come from Christian families or be denominational or sectarian. Collective worship may contain non-Christian elements and include a minority of acts of worship within a term, which do not fit this broadly Christian base.

A variety of presentation eg. oral, films, slides, music, drama, art dance and visual aids, may be included in the acts of worship. Collective worship should be interactive encouraging reflection, challenging questions, role play and feedback.

Throughout the year, presentations are made by different people eg. classes, teachers, pupils, Leading Learners Christian Club, invited speakers, local faith groups. Children open close collective worship by lighting the candles or extinguishing them. Children are also invited to lead the school prayer. Also, children are encouraged to participate or lead collective worship as often as possible. Children enter and leave the hall quietly, accompanied by music as appropriate.

Achievements of children are celebrated by the whole school on Mondays and Fridays and, on a termly basis, parents are invited to class sharing assemblies.

Quiet times for reflection and prayers are included in all worship. Children are encouraged to learn by memory the Lord's Prayer and the school prayer. Hymns are included in the majority of collective worship and at times relate to events in the Christian calendar.

8. Organisation

Monday – Theme for the week including Values (Truly Brilliant) awards (whole school, led by Headteacher)

Tuesday – In Class collective worship based on picture news resources (topical & current affairs)

Wednesday – Faith group or leader led (based on the theme for the half term)

Thursday – Singing collective worship (hymns based on the theme or event in Christian calendar)

Friday - Pupil achievement celebration or class sharing assembly.

Appendix A

Pupil Achievement Collective Worship
(every Friday, led by the Headteacher unless there is a class sharing assembly)

- Values (Truly Brilliant) Awards – 1 per year group per week (nominated by the pupils)
- Writer of the Week – 1 per year group per week (nominated by staff)
- Marvellous Mathematician – 1 per year group per week (nominated by staff)
- Superstar Sportsperson - 1 per year group per week (nominated by staff)
- Creative Genius - 1 per year group per week (nominated by staff)

Each child will receive a certificate for the awards above.

The Values (Truly Brilliant) Award certificate will be signed by each child in the Year Group.

Certificate receivers will be photographed and their pictures will be displayed in the school entrance. Their names will also be published in the school's weekly newsletter.

Appendix B – Script for Collective Worship

No	Section	Script
1	Welcome and light candles	*Choose three children to light the candles. *Say 'We worship in the name of', everyone says 'the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.' The candles are lit. *Say 'Peace be with you', everyone says 'and also with you.'
2	Introduce theme or visitors	Led the Collective Worship in line with the published Collective Worship calendar for the year.
3	Song	Song should be chosen in line with theme for the Collective Worship or theme for the half term.
6	Prayer	Choose a pupil to lead the school prayer or the Lord's Prayer which is said with actions.
7	Turn off the candles	*Candles volunteers come to the front and hold the candles *Say, 'We have worshipped in the name of' *Everyone says 'The Father, the son and the holy spirit.' Candles are extinguished. *Say 'Peace be with you' and everyone else says 'and also with you.'