



Collective Worship Policy

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| Responsibility: | Local Governing Body |
| Adopted: | November 2023 |
| Date of next review: | November 2025 |

At Christopher Rawlins we are a school community rooted in love, where we make wise choices about our learning, and have the confidence to do the right thing for ourselves and others.

Our vision has its foundation in Paul's prayer for the Christian community in Ephesus, focused on Ephesians Chapter 3 verse 17

“Stand firm and be deeply rooted in love”

We have three Christian values: **Courage, Responsibility and Compassion.**

Introduction

At Christopher Rawlins CE Primary School collective worship is an opportunity for our school community to gather, celebrate and reflect on our values and beliefs. During collective worship we aim to develop a sense of belonging to our school, community and a wider global community

Collective worship offers the pupils and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on our values and how these are embedded in understanding, respect and empathy in the context of our Christian vision. Pupils, staff and parents of all faiths or none, are included in collective worship.

Collective worship is an expression of our vision and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

Our collective worship provides an opportunity to:

- Celebrate Christian seasons and festivals, school values associated with our vision, pupils' and adults' achievements;
- experience prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer;
- create a reflective approach to life including the exploration of deep questions
- develop as a community centred on our clear and distinctive Christian vision
- experience a variety of styles of worship;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship;

Our Values

At Christopher Rawlins CE Primary School we have three Christian values: **Courage**, **Responsibility** and **Compassion**.

In school this means;

Courage

As Paul encouraged the new Christians to use their imaginations, their minds and their wills to search out the riches of Christ (3:18) we want to encourage an aspiration to aim high, and approach our learning with resilience.

Responsibility

As Paul reminds us in Ephesians 3:14, we are all part of one family. We want to learn to take responsibility for our actions and for the way they impact on others. We are honest and true to ourselves.

Compassion

We value everyone as individuals and celebrate our differences. We show friendship and respect to others. We know that love may be the ground from which our actions and words take root and grow (Ephesians 3:17)

Worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth;
- enable participants to consider moral questions in a Christian context;
- enhance social understanding and encourage responses to issues through courageous advocacy;
- give participants a chance to reflect on the place and importance of faith in the lives of people today;
- encourage participants to explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage;

The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings; in the school hall, in classrooms and on occasions outside. On occasions worship takes place in St Mary's Church Adderbury.

We follow the seasons of the Church year and within these significant festivals and other special days are observed. These include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost. Other important days in the calendar such as Remembrance and the Leavers' Service also feature in collective worship.

Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote participants' thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

Leading worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church Community. Rev Liz visits two weekly to lead a collective worship following our whole school themes are planning. Pupils are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year.

Visitors are welcome to contribute to collective worship from time to time and are given guidance from our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in worship. The themes of worship are chosen to both express and explore our vision and the way in which this vision is experienced in school through the associated values. Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as dance and drama alongside more traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song.

Prayer is part of our worship and is always invitational. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection. and our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

Organisation of collective worship

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| Monday | Whole school collective worship, focussed on school value | Led by Headteacher Once a term a class lead worship |
| Tuesday | Whole school collective worship, singing assembly | Led by teachers |
| Wednesday | Collective worship, focussed on school value and Bible story | Every other week led by Clergy Class collective worship focussed on a big question and led by teachers |
| Thursday | Key Stage collective worship, focussed on British values and biblical theme (Picture News) | Led by Key stage teams |
| Friday | Whole school collective worship, sharing and celebration | Led by Headteacher |

Collective worship follows a pattern:

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| Entrance | Children come into the Hall quietly. Music is playing to create a calm reflective space |
| Welcome | Greeting from worship leaders, they light the candles |
| Engage | A Bible story, pictures and other references are used to engage the children with the theme of the worship. Links can be made to school, local and global issues. We use a range of stimulus to promote thinking at a deeper level. |
| Respond | A time for children to think, reflect and join in with prayer on the theme of the worship. Children are asked to reflect on how the theme relates to their life in school and beyond. |
| Send | We conclude with a prayer, and the Lords' Prayer |

A legal note

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day;
- reflect the school's Trust Deed.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or

any acts of worship. In the first instance, parents who may wish to exercise this right should make an appointment to speak with the headteacher.