



Policy for Collective Worship

Adopted: October 2007

Reviewed: Autumn 2011, 2015

Updated: Autumn 2019, 2023

Next review due: Autumn 2027

Why we have collective worship

Otley All Saints is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. Worship is an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community. We believe that collective worship contributes to the ethos and values of the school by providing a spiritual time for the school community to reflect upon major issues and big questions and how they affect day to day life.

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

As a school we aim to explore religious and other beliefs, values and practices which are part of the multi-cultural world in which we live, so that children develop a knowledge and understanding of how beliefs and values of religions and philosophies influence the lives of individuals, families, groups and communities, local and global.

We promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our children at school through a broad and balanced curriculum, promoting Christian values through the experiences offered to all our children.

The aims of collective worship

We believe that collective worship should:

- give all who take part the opportunity to develop an awareness of other people and care of the world we live in, and an awareness and understanding of God;
- provide an opportunity for spiritual growth, enabling children to explore their own beliefs;
- Encourage participation and response;
- Develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- Promote our school ethos with our shared Christian values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- Provide opportunities for self-reflection, and create a space where feelings of awe and wonder can be shared;
- Provide opportunities to celebrate and share achievement.

Collective worship should provide an opportunity for all who are invited to participate in the spiritual dimension of life, adults as well as children.

Pupil Worship Leaders

Older pupils have the opportunity to apply to be collective worship leaders. This team of around twelve pupils take turns to support the preparation of worship space, and also have regular opportunities to plan and lead worship. They meet regularly with the headteacher to plan and evaluate collective worship, making suggestions for improvement and refinement. Collective worship leaders also have the opportunity to participate in a 'creative club', producing displays, artefacts and worship foci to use at key times of the church year, such as Christmas and Easter.

Organisation

An annual cycle of themes has been developed to include aspects of the Anglican calendar, the school's Christian values, general events in school and scope for exploring more specific themes as they present themselves e.g. changes in family circumstances, national/international emergencies, charity appeals and personal achievements. The themes are shared with all who will lead worship in school: staff, pupil leaders and local church leaders and visitors.

Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday	Introduction of theme through class-based worship led by staff and pupils.
Tuesday	Whole school worship led by the headteacher, deputy or local church leader.
Wednesday	Whole school worship led by the headteacher or deputy, to include monthly sharing of achievements within the school community.
Thursday	Key stage hymn practice, singing songs and developing their meanings linked, to the theme for the week
Friday	Whole school worship led by members of All Saints Church ('Open the Book') or pupil collective worship leaders

Planning and evaluating collective worship

Those leading collective worship will plan carefully to ensure that the times together are engaging, using a range of strategies including story, drama, use of artefacts, participation, singing, poetry, pictures, video clips etc. All worship times will include a period of silence for reflection, and one or more prayers which are invitational.

Collective worship leaders, with the support of the headteacher (and foundation governors where appropriate), will regularly review the effectiveness of collective worship, making positive suggestions for its development in school.