

Old Dalby Church of England Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Approved by: Teaching Staff

Next review due
by: September 2025

**Kind hearts. Open Minds. Courageous Spirits
Together, we will explore life in all its fullness.**

Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good.
Hebrews 10:24

Our Vision

Kind hearts. Open minds. Courageous spirits.
Together, we will explore life in all its fullness.

This is a promise that we, as a whole school, will educate children to be accepting, thoughtful and courageous. Our pupils will show kindness and love to everyone around them, our pupils will understand, accept and celebrate diversity, they will recognise injustices and speak up when they see them.

This will be achieved through a curriculum based on a skills progression of our eight Christian values. We will ensure that the pupils build the skills to live our values. Our curriculum will provide knowledge of historical and current events to provide our children with context and understanding of the values. Children will learn to challenge what they see as an injustice and seek to right this. They will be ambitious, have the courage of their convictions and be empathetic to others. Through working closely with the local community and church, we will provide a warm, nurturing environment to foster ambition, curiosity, spirituality and love.

“Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good.”
Hebrews 10:24

This policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school’s vision and mission statement. It supports and reinforces the aims of Old Dalby C of E Primary School, valuing all children equally.

We try to ensure that our school:

- Motivates each child so that they develop intellectually, spiritually physically and morally, within a secure and happy working environment
- Challenges children to stand up and speak out when they see injustice
- Provides work within a broad curriculum to develop lively, open and enquiring minds
- Helps children to acquire knowledge and skills relevant to their needs, laying the foundation for the next phase of their education
- Develops an awareness of self, sensitivity to others and acceptance (not tolerance)
- Offers equal opportunities to all pupils throughout the curriculum
- Increases the children’s understanding of, and concern for, the environment and the wider world
- Identifies and monitors the progress of all pupils, ensuring that all children are enabled to achieve their full potential
- Supports the children in their development of morals and Christian values
- Facilitates the development of independent, motivated learners
- Provides a caring and friendly atmosphere, which fosters respect for each other and individual responsibility.

Collective Worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school. It provides opportunity and experiences which deepen the inner senses and engender feelings of

Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good.
Hebrews 10:24

self-worth and the uniqueness of the individual. It gives pupils and staff a sense of belonging to our school community.

It is a time when children meet together with members of staff in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. Collective Worship is distinct from simply meeting together to exchange information. Worship involves us gathering together to learn about and to praise God, and to express feelings of worth and respect for ourselves, others, our local community and our world as gifts from God. It is also an opportunity for prayer and reflection.

Philosophy

Collective Worship is a part of school life in which the whole school community can share. It offers intentional learning experiences which draw on and contribute to the whole curriculum as well as the spiritual and moral development of pupils and staff. Collective Worship gives the opportunity to explore the spiritual dimension of life, celebrate achievements together, share experiences and reflect on common values. It contributes to children's religious education by using some of the elements of Christian worship, promoting an understanding of the nature of God through the life of Jesus Christ and evoking the senses and feelings from which the worship of God arises.

We recognize the importance of supporting the spiritual life, growth and well-being of staff as much as the pupils, therefore we use Collective Worship to provide for all members of school community. We feel it is important for the pupils to see that worship is part of an on-going journey through our own faith and spirituality that does not end when you leave primary school.

All Collective Worship will be in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England. It may also reflect the broad traditions of the wider Christian Church. Since the school community represents a range of religious and non-religious beliefs, which need to be respected, the Christian faith will not be presented in order to inspire commitment. Participants will be encouraged to respond to worship in their own way and to respect the responses of others.

Aims

As stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act our Collective Worship is part of a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society.

In accordance with the 1988 Act, we provide a daily act of Collective Worship for our school community.

Through a range of memorable, thought provoking and enjoyable experiences, we aim to:

- Help all participants to find their place in the world and our community, and to respect everyone's integrity and each individual as a child of God.
- Provide a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship forms at an appropriate level.
- Encourage everyone to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God.
- Encourage all participants to consider fundamental questions about the purpose of being and about moral and ethical stances.

Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good.

Hebrews 10:24

- Provide an opportunity to celebrate major, and some minor, Christian festivals.
- Appreciate that people have different beliefs that should be respected and valued.
- Provide opportunity to become acquainted with the faith of the people from the local and wider community, particularly the local church.
- Allow opportunity to learn and celebrate Christian values we hold to be important.
- Bring everyone together, enabling them to experience the security of belonging to a community with an identity of its own, appreciating their value to God.
- Provide interesting and thought-provoking content.
- Make an important contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Strengthen and celebrate a sense of our school community, ethos and Christian values.
- Extend everyone's understanding and experience of Christian beliefs and practices.
- Encourage an individual response to worship and respect for the responses of others.
- Celebrate gifts, talents and achievements of everyone.
- Encourage stewardship, respect and care for God's creation by developing and maintaining a positive attitude to both local and global issues.
- Develop appropriate personal relationships between all members of the school community and to encourage social development.
- Enable participants to make effective use of silence as opportunities for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer.
- Provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others.
- Foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy.

Objectives

Old Dalby C of E Primary School's objectives are to:

- Affirm morals and values of Christian faith
- Introduce pupils to the practice of Collective Worship
- Encourage, in everyone, a thoughtful and reflective attitude
- Help all members of the school community to experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness
- Provide opportunities to use silence for reflection and contemplation
- Raise curiosity about the mysteries of life
- Provide opportunity for all to consider in depth religious teachings, festivals and biblical material
- Give time to reflect on their own beliefs in relation to those of others
- Enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our school community
- Help everyone to distinguish between right and wrong
- Affirm the worth and responsibility of all members of our community, celebrating our differences and similarities
- Celebrate individual and collective achievements
- Develop a sense of community within the school by coming together in worship
- Celebrate religious festivals and special occasions

Implementation

The following principles guide our approach to Collective Worship at Old Dalby School:

- It has a sense of occasion
- It provides experiences for everyone's spiritual development to flourish

Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good.

Hebrews 10:24

- It expresses the ethos and Christian values of the school
- It provides a varied pattern of worship to broaden experiences of different forms
- It recognises that there are different religious and non-religious cultures
- It will provide the opportunity for those who wish to worship and for others to experience what it is like to worship by being with those who are.

Whole school acts of Collective Worship take place 4 times a week, on Wednesdays the classes reflect and worship together.

The themes are planned in line with the termly themes published by the Diocese. The structure of Collective Worship comes from the sequence of gather, engage, respond, send.

Collective Worship includes music; a song of praise; a story and or a reading from the Bible or talk; a period of reflection; and a prayer.

Provision

Monday	Head Teacher/Deputy Headteacher
Tuesday	Staff rota/Worship through song
Wednesday	In class, Drop Everything And Reflect
Thursday	Worship through song/Staff rota
Friday	Staff rota

Special acts of Collective Worship are held throughout the year for occasions such as Christmas, Harvest Festival, Easter, etc. Parents are encouraged to attend some special acts of Collective Worship and those celebrating children's achievements. Other visitors are also invited to give pupils the opportunity to learn about different forms of Christian worship.

Teaching staff all lead Collective Worship, support staff are welcome to but it is not a requirement.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, there is at least one whole school, virtual Collective Worship a week, led by a staff member via Zoom. On days when a digital worship is not possible, classes and bubbles worship together.

Approach

Whilst using some of the elements of Christian corporate worship, Collective Worship should be a distinctly open, educational experience for all who take part. The language used should be appropriate to the children's age and experience. The environment should be conducive to the planned activities. These may include the use of:

- Appropriate accompanied or unaccompanied songs
- Stories and readings from sacred and other writing
- Speech and silence
- Formal and informal prayers
- Reflection, meditation and contemplation
- Movement and stillness
- Ritual and responsive acts
- Music, dance and drama
- Other curriculum areas
- The five senses

Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good.
Hebrews 10:24

- Special clothing, food, signs and symbols
- The expected and the unexpected.

Worship may arise naturally from the sensitive evocation of senses and feelings such as:

Beauty
 Courage
 Awe and wonder
 Peace
 Pride
 Thankfulness
 Pity
 Smallness in the face of great things
 Grandness in the face of small things
 Stillness in the midst of a busy experience
 Shared sadness
 Shared loss
 Shared concern
 Shared celebration
 Shared hope
 Belonging
 Wholeness

Worship may seek to explore the spiritual dimension of life in some of the following ways:

- Expressing personal experiences
- Empathizing with the experience of others
- Using stories, parables and allegories with a deeper meaning
- Explaining the spiritual truths and insights of Christianity and other faiths

All participants will be prepared for the acts of worship by entering the hall or classroom in a dignified silence, sitting quietly and listening to music, prior to the commencement of the worship. Following the talk by the leader of the act of worship children will be invited to take part in a period of spiritual reflection and finally a prayer. Children will be taught techniques for reflection and prayer encouraging a pattern of recognizing the opportunities to share personal thoughts. There will be times when prayer reflects the needs of our community, our country and the wider world. We will also offer the opportunity for personal prayer.

Entitlement

All children and adults have equal opportunities to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. In sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives, along with our common concerns, responsibilities and values, we affirm the equality of each individual, regardless of gender, creed (or lack of one), ethnicity, physical or mental ability. Parents are entitled to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. For a pupil to miss Worship for any other reason is illegal and will not happen.

Record and Assessment

Themes for Collective Worship are noted on the Collective Worship Rota and displayed in the staffroom and on the Collective Worship Board outside the hall. Prayers are written by all members of the School community, these are used in conjunction with the Lord's Prayer.

An evaluation of Collective Worship is carried out weekly, teachers observe each other and look at how the theme was developed and the engagement of the children. These evaluations feed in to a termly review with outcomes being fed back to staff at a weekly staff meeting.

The assessment of the opportunity that is presented to the children is carried out by the Headteacher in an informal manner through observation and dialogue. Staff meetings are used for discussion and the update of information as and when necessary.

Visitors

Visitors are welcome to lead and participate in worship. Visiting governors attend Collective Worship and parents as well as members of the wider community are invited to termly church assemblies.

We maintain strong links with St John the Baptist Church. The whole school community visit St John's for an act of worship at least once a term. This Policy will be communicated to who all who lead worship in school.

Withdrawal of Pupils

We aim to ensure that Collective Worship is meaningful and relevant for all children and staff, for those with a faith background and those with none. Our school exerts no pressure on children to become worshipping Christians, or to participate actively in any activity that will compromise their own family faith or lack of faith. However, Christian values are built into our curriculum and ethos, and are reflected in the themes of our worship.

Should parents wish to exercise their right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship, this is discussed with the Headteacher. We aim to make all children and their parents feel that attendance does not compromise their own feelings and that Collective Worship is an important time when the school comes together as an "extended family".

Resources

Resources are suggested on the termly theme rota, planned around our Christian Values and Routes to Resilience vocabulary. All resources for Collective Worship are located in the Collective Worship cupboard outside of the hall.