

# Collective Worship Policy



**Providing the rich soil that enables  
our children to develop deep roots and flourish.**

**Chair of Governor:** Mr J Gegg

**Headteacher:** Mrs A Flight

**Review Date:** December 2027

**Other relevant policies:** Safeguarding Policy, SEND, RE, SMSC

*This policy should be read in conjunction with the Diocesan Collective Worship Guidance Document.*

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<b>Name of School:</b> Amberley Parochial School
<b>School's Vision:</b> Providing the rich soil that enables our children to develop deep roots and flourish

### **Legal Framework**

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at anytime in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, “that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, is not relevant. Worship in Amberley Parochial School should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The trustees and local governing body school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school can respond to IQ3 in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Framework 2023, which asks ‘How is collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually? They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating how collective worship is helping pupils and adults flourish spiritually in consultation with the headteacher.

### **School Statement on Collective Worship**

In Amberley Parochial School worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school’s vision.

*As a church school, we use the Parable of the Sower as a foundation for our vision. We aim to provide the rich soil that all members of the school community need in order to develop deep roots and flourish. We have identified core Christian Values that underpin our work as a school community and which inform our vision, aims and ethos. The values that relate particularly to this policy are respect, service and trust.*

It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

However, in Amberley the purpose of collective worship will be to lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish. It is a place where all can flourish spiritually.

*“Worship in (CofE) schools promotes theological and Religious Literacy and liberates participants to an imagining of a different order of justice, mercy and hope”<sup>1</sup>*

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (and other faiths<sup>2</sup>) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.<sup>3</sup> Collective Worship in our school is invitational, inspirational and inclusive.

### **Aims and Guiding Principles**

This school follows the guiding principles highlighted in the document: Collective Worship in Church of England Schools Inclusive Invitational Inspiring Guidance Document, May 2021 which is included as Appendix I at the end of this policy.

*Collective worship in Amberley Parochial School aims to:*

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults’ to flourish spiritually
- Be the central vehicle by which the school’s vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.

<sup>1</sup> CEE0 Vision statement “Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good” Autumn 2016

<sup>2</sup> Collective Worship in a CofE school must be in alignment with the religious foundation of the school (Christian), however there is a responsibility for schools in all contexts to mark, respond and learn from the festivals of other faiths. This may be designated as a separate act, not to be conflated with collective worship.

<sup>3</sup> “To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”. William Temple (1881-1894)

- Explore a variety of ways of praying, through inviting children to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introducing them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be offered the opportunity to be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.
- At Amberley, worship is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. Pupils and staff in our school will come from different backgrounds of faith and no faith and will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey. Opportunity is given to think, ask questions and reflect. Care is taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching. Pupils are involved in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship in order to offer their own meaningful contributions.
- Collective worship at Amberley provides the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity.
- Collective worship at Amberley is designed to be formational, transformational and inspirational, leading pupils to become courageous advocates of causes and encouraging them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

## Organisation

Collective Worship takes place for the whole school each day.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Led By</b>	<b>Time</b>
Monday	Church/School Hall	Local incumbent	9.10 – 9.30am
Tuesday	School hall/Class Worship	Headteacher/Class teachers	2.55 – 3.15pm
Wednesday	School hall	Worship Team	2.55 – 3.15pm
Thursday	Class Worship	Class teachers and children	2.55 – 3.15pm
Friday – Celebration Assembly	School hall	Headteacher/teachers	2.45 – 3.10pm

## Leadership

- Daily Collective Worship is led by the headteacher, a member of staff, or small group of pupils, a whole class, a member of the clergy or local church, or visitors.
- The role of the local incumbent is to support and lead collective worship in partnership with the SLT on a regular basis, including additional services in the church throughout the church's year where possible and appropriate.
- The local incumbent/church is available to support leaders of collective worship to develop their understanding of Christian theology, the teachings of the Bible and develop a deeper understanding of Anglican traditions and liturgy

## Planning

The worship overview is planned by the Headteacher, RE lead or the worship team according to themes outlined in the Values for Life materials provided by the diocese. These themes for each half term are followed by all staff. Bible stories that support the Values are planned into a two-year cycle. The different elements of the Church year is also planned for and delivered during Worship.

Leaders of collective worship may use artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips and focal points to support the delivery of the theme.

Reference is regularly made to the Bible during Collective Worship as a source book of inspiration and guidance and the Church of England's commitment to Christianity throughout the world and dialogue with other faiths. Worship provides opportunities for children and adults to explore faith in today's world and explore the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God as well as allowing for spiritual flourishing through prayer, stillness and reflection.

## Values for Life Themes

Autumn	Friendship
	Trust
Spring	Compassion
	Justice
Summer	Courage
	Service

## Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation

The school will periodically evaluate the impact of collective worship through:

- Governor observations of CW
- Discussions with pupils
- Review of the CW policy and its effectiveness

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

- The Local Governing Body has the responsibility for worship in a church academy, in consultation with the Headteacher.
- There is an expectation that staff will be fully involved in worship in this academy and will attend acts of collective worship with pupils
- The Headteacher is responsible for coordinating collective worship. The Collective Worship Lead will maintain clear forward plans and evaluate the impact of worship on the life of the community.
- In planning worship, the Collective Worship Lead will consider how worship takes account of the church year, the Bible as a source book of inspiration and learning and the Church of England's commitment to ecumenism and dialogue with other faiths. They will also consider the range and variety of materials used, including different leaders; visitors; outside groups; websites; artefacts; stories; artwork; music; film clips and focal points e.g. a picture or candle.
- Pupils understand their key role within the school community from the start of their journey at Amberley Parochial School. The youngest pupils are welcomed and invited to join in collective worship when they are ready and very quickly understand what our expectations and the opportunity worship provides for them.
- Parents and carers are invited to attend special events during the school year at the local church and can access the collective worship policy on the school website.
- Parents are informed on induction that collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school. Visitors are invited to join in collective worship when in school and given clear guidance if they are to take the collective worship.

## **Staff Development and Training**

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. Additionally, support and guidance are provided for visitors and the clergy who lead collective worship.

## **The Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

In Amberley Parochial School there are significant numbers of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non- religious world view.

Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

*(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)*

### **Development and Sharing of the Policy**

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

***This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Collective Worship in Church of England Schools Inclusive Invitational Inspiring Guidance Document and the Diocesan Collective Worship Guidance Document.***

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community
- We also ensure that information about collective worship is included in the school prospectus and on the school website.

Collective Worship in Church of England Schools Inclusive Invitational Inspiring Guidance Document, May 2021