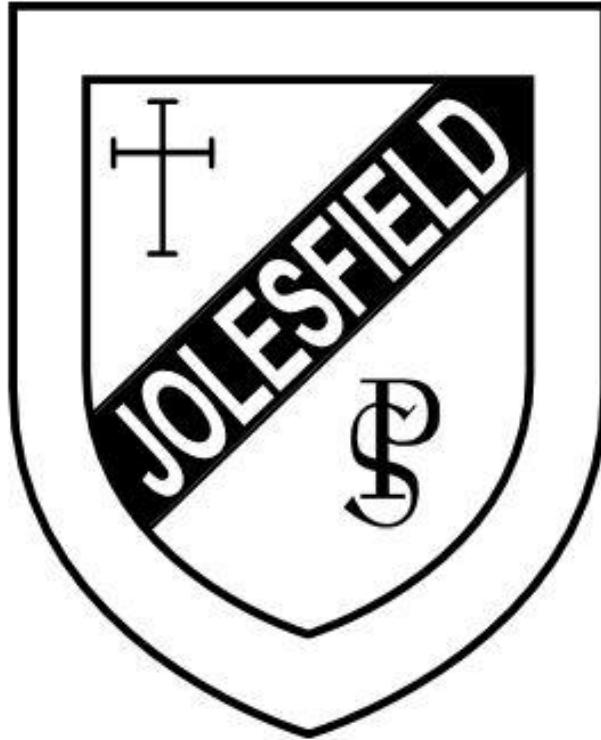


JOLESFIELD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



Collective Worship Policy

Effective : October 2022

Rationale

This Collective Worship policy reflects and reinforces the school's aims, ethos and values and demonstrates the partnership between the conduct and content of school worship and the ethos of the whole school. At Jolesfield Church of England (VC) Primary School we consider Collective Worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the schools distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of all learners. It is a time to come together, as a community, to share common values and principles and to develop a sense of awe and wonder concerning our place within the world.

The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Therefore, Collective Worship at Jolesfield Church of England (VC) Primary School is planned to:

- to be inspirational and inclusive;
- regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and which will explore and relate to the school's core Christian values;
- have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity;
- have a strong focus on the person of Jesus Christ and his position central to the Christian faith;
- help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey.
- be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.

Aims

Collective Worship at Jolesfield Church of England (VC) Primary School aims to:

- enable the school community to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition;
- explore the school's Christian vision and values: positivity, team work, thankfulness, respect and kindness
- celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God;
- share teachings of the Christian faith for the school community to make an informed choice and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ;
- encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith;
- Encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally;
- seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence;
- develop a sense of community within the school, the locality, (e.g. local church) and foster the sense

of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions;

- provide an opportunity to bring personal needs and those of others before God in prayer;
- help children discover their place in the world;
- develop inner awareness, valuing self and the view and opinions of others;
- engage all learners, who should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school;

The Legal Requirements

Schools are bound by the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act which charges them to:

- promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and of society;
- prepare such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The basic requirements are that all pupils shall take part in an act of collective worship every day.

The daily act of collective worship required by law in the school shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England.

Inclusion

Jolesfield Church of England (VC) Primary School is a school for everyone, regardless of beliefs. Therefore, during Collective Worship, we are always sensitive to the very wide range of backgrounds and beliefs represented by our school community. This includes: those who have, or who come from families with, Christian commitment and belief parents who have chosen a church school (or who support its ethos) because they wish their children to experience something of the Christian faith members of other faith communities those who may not share in any particular religious belief

Planning and Organisation

Themes for Collective Worship are planned by the headteacher and foundation governors, using the Roots and Fruits framework as a basis. Planning focuses primarily upon the study of a value as follows:

	Year A	Year B
Autumn 1	Generosity	Thankfulness
Autumn 2	Compassion	Trust
Spring 1	Courage	Perseverance
Spring 2	Forgiveness	Justice
Summer 1	Friendship	Service
Summer 2	Respect	Truthfulness

The Christian calendar and areas of interest shown by pupils, in their own faith, are also taken into account in Collective worship planning.

Whole school Collective Worship is held on 4 days of the week, with key stage or class-based worship held on the remaining day. EYFS build up to joining every collective worship across the academic year. When not participating in whole-school worship, EYFS hold their own worship in their classroom.

Whole School Celebration: Once a week on a Friday, the School gathers for this worship, in which achievements of pupils at the school are celebrated. This worship will normally provide opportunities for spiritual development.

	School involvement	Leader
Monday	Whole School	Headteacher
Tuesday	Key stage	Classteacher
Wednesday	Whole School	HLTA
Thursday	Whole School	Rev Alison
Friday	Whole School	Headteacher

Pupils are involved in the planning and leading of Collective Worship in the following ways:

- School ambassadors plan and lead a whole school Collective Worship, at least, once a term. Sometimes, this is linked to the half-termly theme and on other occasions, pupils are encouraged to suggest the theme and message of the act of worship and consider how they will deliver this message to other pupils;
- Each class may have responsibility for preparing and delivering part of a longer Collective Worship which may be held at Church to celebrate a specific time of year (e.g. Christmas, Easter, Harvest).
- Year 6 prepare and deliver a their Leavers' Service;
- In most acts of collective worship, individual pupils are invited to lead prayers, which pupils of all ages are keen to do;
- Pupils are invited to be volunteers on an 'ad hoc' basis to act out or role play situations/stories, read prayers etc.

Delivering collective worship at our school

We mark out this special time by lighting a candle, entering and exiting calmly and quietly, having time for stillness and reflection, and singing and listening to music. Worship starts with a call and response: "The lord is here." "His spirit is with us". Worship closes with either: "Let us bless the Lord." "Thanks be to God" or the prayer: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the holy spirit be with us all evermore." "Amen."

Each person leading worship uses the framework of 'Roots and Fruits' and prepares with thoroughness and reflection.

We encourage a 4-stage structure of planning:

Gathering: We welcome the community with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle.

Learning (The window): We share a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message

Reflecting (The Mirror): Pupils discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing

Responding (The door): We share the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will impact upon their day, learning and/or behaviour. We close worship with liturgy, final prayer, music and the blowing out of the candles. The response is focussed on at a deeper and more personalised level in Tuesday's class worship exploring how the theme/story/stimulus from Monday's worship might resonate with an individual and the outcome of this.

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities, including: music, silence, symbolism, drama, ICT etc.

Responsibilities

Hall monitors from Year 6 Worship Group take it in turns to carry out routine tasks such as setting up the Worship Table, welcoming and dismissing, organising the music and operating the computer/projector. Pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 can volunteer to be school ambassadors. This group regularly assist in the delivery of some of the content of Collective Worship (e.g. reading the story, acting out, preparing role plays) as well as planning and leading a collective worship at least once a term.

Senior Leadership Team and Foundation Governors

Work together, in consultation with school ambassadors, to plan and organise collective worship across school and the wider community through both daily worship and those celebrating specific times throughout the Christian calendar

Monitoring and Evaluation

Evaluation strategies currently used by staff and governors for assessing the outcomes of collective worship are:

- Observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest shown during the sessions.
- Observations are conducted by staff and governors
- Feedback from pupils through school ambassadors
- Parents by means of bi-annual surveys
- Termly collective worship meetings with the foundation governors
- Observation of the children's general behaviour and spiritual awareness in and around school

The monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship forms part of the school's programme of monitoring. This is done through:

formal observations of Acts of Collective Worship led by a range of leaders;

- pupil discussion groups with the Headteacher or Governor;
- informal observations of how pupils are putting the messages from Collective Worship into practice; pupils' responses and ideas during Collective Worship as a whole school and as a class
- written evidence in response to prompts in the whole school reflection corner which links with the Collective Worship theme
- Reflection floor books show the consideration of practical application of Christian teaching from collective worship
- written and photographic evidence from prayer spaces

Visitors

Regular visitors leading Collective Worship are:

Reverend Alison Letschka, Rector of the parish of West Grinstead (St Michael's, Partridge Green and St. Georges, West Grinstead)

Splash for Schools and Communities, led by Jo Eames

Other visitors can include:

Reverend Caroline Armitage (Curate)

Reverend Gavin Hancock (Methodist Church - when invited)

Visitors are supported to understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular viewpoint, Christian or otherwise are to be avoided. The Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

Prayer

Prayer is an important part of collective worship and a natural part of school life. Children can be helped to understanding through a flexible approach to prayer.

We use different methods of prayer such as:

- prayer and music;
- prayer and silence and quiet time;
- postures for prayer such as hands together, arms crossed or hands in laps;

We also use set prayers – our School Prayer, the grace and the traditional version of the Lord's Prayer, as well as our own collection of prayers and graces for use at lunchtime and at the end of the day.

Hymns and Music

Music plays an important part in our worship and helps to create an atmosphere that sets the tone for worship. We have a repertoire of hymns and songs. Hymns and songs are selected for the appropriate age group and are practised regularly. Where possible, these relate to the theme of our worship eg Friendship, or to the relevant Christian festivals e.g. Christmas, Harvest and Easter. Music is chosen to start and end our collective worship.

Planning

Worship is planned in advance using long term plans and termly plans. The themes ensure a balance by considering special occasions in the school's life, the use of the Church Calendar, the leadership of the worship and special services. The planned worship for the term provides an opportunity to be flexible, offer an invitation to reflect, be responsive to local and national situations and current affairs, be responsive to children's needs, and appropriateness for our school. Planning is based on the resource, Roots and Fruits.

Resources

A range of books and resources are available to support collective worship in the school and are kept in the staffroom. The Worship plan is given to all staff as well as key questions to guide responses during class worship on Tuesdays.

Withdrawal

All parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship, wholly or partially. The school's responsibility for the child's health and safety is still paramount. All staff, including the headteacher, have the legal right to withdraw from the Act of Collective Worship. The headteacher remains responsible for finding someone suitable to organise and lead the acts of worship.

Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Related Policies / Documents

- RE Policy
- School vision and aims
- Christian values webpages