



Dunchurch Boughton C of E Infant Academy and Nursery

Collective Worship Policy

Roots to grow. Wings to fly.

Version	Date	Author	Changes	Review date
V1	December 2022	Suzanne Marson	New policy	September 2023
V2	June 2026	Suzanne Marson	Addition of spirituality approach into worship Rewording throughout the policy	June 2029

As a Church of England Academy we strive, to inspire and empower every child and adult to grow academically, socially, morally, spiritually and culturally in the knowledge they are loved by God and are safe and valued within our school community.

Our school vision of roots to grow, wings to fly is the golden thread that drives everything we do within school, drawing inspiration from the Parable of the Mustard Seed.

At Dunchurch Infants, Collective Worship forms an integral part of everyday school life. It provides children with the opportunity to reflect on their own lives and the lives of others, explore the Christian faith in greater depth and develop a well-rounded understanding of the world in which we live. In accordance with the law for all schools and academies, we hold a daily act of collective worship which is of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the diverse traditions of Christian belief and marking the cycle of the church's year. We strive to ensure that our acts of worship are inspirational, invitational and inclusive for all members of our school community; an aspiration underpinned by the following aims and objectives and will be monitored and quality assured through the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS).

Aims

Within collective worship we aim:

- To foster a sense of personal 'worship' and collective fellowship, bringing the whole school community together.
- To explicitly promote our vision and values, including linking these to scripture, and to help staff and children grow on their own spiritual journeys as we focus on those values.
- To create an atmosphere of occasion and reverence where those who wish to worship feel supported and where others are brought into a meaningful encounter in a liminal space with something beyond themselves.
- To encourage in pupils a reflective approach to life, providing them with opportunities to make personal reflections.
- To provide a nurturing environment that is caring and inclusive for all, allowing all to explore their own world view.
- To introduce various aspects of religious worship to involve pupils and inspire everyone attending: prayer, singing, music, drama, silent reflection, art, poetry and story.
- To foster deepening understanding of theological concepts and the power symbolism and metaphor e.g. Trinity and light.
- To explore social, moral and ethical issues.
- To celebrate all that is good and lovely about life - especially our school community, our friends and families and the natural world.
- To foster an understanding that faith transcends politics and geographical boundaries as we make meaningful links with Christians across our Diocese, our country and the world.
- To work closely with the local church to further the understanding of Christianity.
- To provide children and staff with the opportunity to develop spiritually, including deepening their sense of wonder about the world around them.
- To provide stimulus for courageous advocacy, inspiring children and staff to 'make a change'.
- To be invitational to all in the school community.

Objectives

We see Collective Worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives. We use this time to encourage our pupils to:

- Live out our vision, Christian values and British values.
- Learn about and reflect upon stories from the bible.
- Show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community and beyond.
- Celebrate special occasions together, including Christian festivals.
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community and the wider world.
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life, considering the 'ows and the wows of life' – the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful and solemn.
- Link themes and focus points with the windows, mirrors, doors and candles approach to spirituality.

Organisation

The member of staff responsible for Collective Worship is Suzanne Marson.

In accordance with the law for all schools and academies, at Dunchurch Infants we hold a daily act of collective worship which is of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the diverse traditions of Christian belief and marking the cycle of the church's year. We strive to ensure that our acts of worship are inspirational, invitational and inclusive for all members of our school community.

Worship is an important feature of the life of the school. The rights of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship is enshrined in the 1988 Education Reform Act. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the daily act of worship but are urged to discuss the matter with the Headteacher before making a decision to do so. Parents are invited to attend all end of year services at the church and any special services held within school.

Acts of worship are led by staff, children, clergy and invited visitors. Collective Worship is not Religious Education (RE), although they can and should complement each other. All staff members are expected to participate in worship, and at times lead worship within classes or as a whole school. We understand that some children who attend Dunchurch Infants come from a different religious background and respect the traditions of other faiths. Worship is invitational, and those who lead worship do so in such a way as to allow all children to take part with integrity. The dedicated time for Collective Worship is twenty minutes per day.

Whole school worship takes place in our hall which has many other functions throughout the school day. To create an atmosphere of 'special time and sacred space', we give careful attention to:

- having a worship table which has a cloth to match the colours of the liturgical year
- having a visual focus, for example candles, a cross, a plant and a prayer book
- having a Bible on display
- having carefully chosen music playing as we enter and leave the hall
- sometimes displaying a relevant picture, phrase or question on the screen to direct thinking and encourage reflection whilst waiting for worship to begin
- on occasions, having everyone entering and singing one of our well-known worship songs
- expecting that everyone (children and adults alike) enters the hall in an intentionally reflective manner.
- making references to the Big Frieze when reading something from the Bible
- expecting that everyone (children and adults alike) enters the hall in an intentionally reflective manner
- minimising interruptions from people walking through the hall during worship time
- lighting a candle together to signify that collective worship is about to begin, and extinguishing these to demonstrate that worship has finished

At Dunchurch Infants we have developed a long term plan of themes for collective worship based on our vision, values and events within the Christian calendar. However, we recognise that on occasions, best practice is to relate our worship to local, national or international events that are current and relevant to the children's lives. Collective Worships are planned half termly with the aim of gradually developing a particular theme or idea (e.g. Christian value, Courageous Advocacy or understanding our school Christian Vision). We use the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning. However, we also respond to local situations and need, both within the Academy and outside. We aim to use a range of resources and materials appropriate to the pupil's ages and stages of development.

Other types of Worship

The children in school contribute to leading an act of collective worship every half term, to celebrate and showcase their learning to the school and to their family members. This includes prayers and songs. These take place at the following times:

Autumn 1 – Harvest

Autumn 2 – Christmas

Spring 1 – Mother's Day

Spring 2 – Easter

Summer 1 – Father's Day

Summer 2 – End of year celebration

Twice a year, worship takes place at our local church, St Peters in Dunchurch. Services are held at Christmas and at Easter. In addition, the local Vicar regularly comes into school to carry out worship with the children.

A typical weekly pattern of worship may include the following:

Monday– Whole school worship led by Headteacher / a senior leader (stories from the Bible / key events in the Christian calendar)

Tuesday – Whole school worship led by Headteacher (Christian value or vision theme)

Wednesday – Whole school worship led by Headteacher (Picture News topical events, linking these to values and scripture)

Thursday – Singing worship

Friday – Celebration worship, whole school, led by Headteacher or senior leader

Prayer

We feel prayer is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts. Nevertheless, pupils should not be required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe. We have developed various forms of introductions to our prayers which provide children with the opportunity to participate if / when they so desire. All prayers are invitational. The use of regular moments of silence provides opportunities for some pupils to respond in a personal way if they so wish. We do ask that all children are respectful during prayers using the model that Jesus taught in the bible when teaching his disciples the Lord's prayer. Our school prayer helps children define the positive aspects of our school as well as giving children a clear frame to follow.

Moments of silence, serenity and reflection are reinforced throughout the school by the embedded nature of worship and calm spaces. Worship areas in each room provide children with an opportunity to pray and reflect should they wish to do so. An inclusive provision for all, calm areas are located in every room, allowing a safe, quiet place in which to self-regulate, using either strategies developed within class or through targeted intervention.

Pupil involvement in planning and evaluating including Worship Group

- School Council team- There are child-led opportunities for planning, leading and evaluating whole school worship linked to the vision and values.
- Worship team- There are also regular opportunities for child-led worship where they plan, deliver and evaluate worship regularly.
- Special services – Each year group has a service which they help to devise – Harvest (reception), Father's Day (year one) and Mother's Day (year two).

Monitoring the quality of Collective Worship

Foundation Governors, along with the Senior Leadership Team, monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governors concerned liaise with the Headteacher before reporting to the other governors on religious education and collective worship and supports the school with all issues relating to SIAMS.

Equal Opportunities and Special Educational Needs

The staff and Governors at Dunchurch Infants are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from collective worship. Our school worship aims to share what is meaningful and significant in our lives, sharing our common concerns and responsibilities, and developing positive attitudes and values. It affirms the equality and uniqueness of each individual in God's sight, whatever their gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability.