

Marwood Church of England VC Infant School



Document Status	
Date of Next Review : Spring 2028	Responsibility : Governing Body
Date of Policy Creation / Review : Spring 2025	
Date of Policy Adoption by Governing Body : V Bradley Signed Chairman of Governing Body	

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of love, friendship and forgiveness and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. 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. Collective worship is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

Collective Worship at Marwood School;

- is planned to be to be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- will regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the schools core Christian values
- will have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- will help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- will challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection and Stillness
- will contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to"
- will be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

Collective worship should be invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation. Collective worship is fully inclusive to all children (see Single Equality Scheme).

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus and handbook.

Parents contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

A space will be provided for children to access safely during worship if required.

Planning Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. Children will be greeted with the words 'Welcome to worship, peace be with you.' The children will be invited to respond with 'And also with you.'

The Trinity candle will be lit at the start of worship with the words 'We light this candle as we think of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit' to create a special atmosphere.

The leader of the worship will have their own special object or symbol.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship. We encourage a 4 stage structure of planning including 'Gathering', 'engaging', 'responding' and 'sending'. There should also be space for evaluation. The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the Trinity Group. Pupils are involved in the leading and monitoring of Collective worship.

Monitoring is carried out on a regular basis. The foundation governors have a key role in this process to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality. One of the foundation governors will attend worship once each term and complete an evaluation form. This is part of the on-going programme of governor monitoring.

There are a number of resources available to form the basis of collective worship planning including Oscar Out of the Box and Values for Life

The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by the headteacher.

Our pattern of Collective Worship

Monday 3pm	Introduce Theme for Half Term led by K Grossett and Weekly Objective	
Tuesday 3pm	'Linked Worship'	led by D Walton
Wednesday 3pm	'Linked Worship'	led by E Anderson
Thursday 3pm	'Linked Worship'	led by K Spenceley
Friday 3pm	'Church Year'/Linked Worship	led by Reverend Sarah Cliff

Each week, Picture News will be a focus for one worship.

Acts of worship generally follow themes that are linked to the school's vision and values and include the pattern of the church's year.

Year 'A' Collective Worship Themes

Year 'B' Collective Worship

Autumn Term

What is the same and what is different about us?

Prayer

Harvest

Christmas & Advent

Autumn Term

What makes a good friend?

Keeping safe

Harvest

Christmas and Advent

Spring Term

Who is special to us?

Special Places/Symbols (link to church)

Easter

Spring Term

What helps us stay healthy?

Let's Celebrate

Easter

Summer Term

How can we look after our world and our neighbours?

All God's Children (families round the world)

Looking Forward (moving on)

Summer Term

How can we look after our world and our neighbours?

Special Books

Our Wonderful World

Yellow highlights links with the RHE curriculum

Christian values will be linked into each half termly theme using the 'Values for Life' resource file.

Collective Worship will be held in Christ Church once each half term in addition to 'special' worships (Carol service, Easter service, Ascension Day, Leavers' service). When worship is in Church it will be led by Reverend Sarah Cliff and/or the children. Parents are invited to attend.

Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of *Collective Worship* at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. The Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship

Foundation Governors are involved at least termly with the worship programme. Teaching staff are given the opportunity of being involved in this programme every half term.

Monitoring and evaluation

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders and governors in order to grow and develop. We also actively seek the contributions of parents and pupils through questionnaires and pupil and parent voice activities, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared at foundation governor and full governing body meetings and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York (SIAMS).