



Collective Worship Policy

At Callow End we provide a caring environment where everyone works together to build a firm foundation for love and learning. As a foundation for love we provide a welcoming, safe and supportive environment in which the qualities and abilities of all our pupils are nurtured and celebrated. We use our school's Christian vision and values to guide us, sharing an ethos of love and respect, treating everyone in the way that we would like to be treated. We strive to celebrate differences both in our school community and around the world through our teaching, learning and shared life with our Church.

As a foundation for learning, we promote excellence, providing an inspirational curriculum which enables all pupils to aspire, achieve and flourish. We want our children to have positive emotional and mental health, and an understanding of their place in the wider world.

All our policies are written to reflect and support this vision.

Our Christian Vision

Our school Christian vision of *'building a foundation for love and learning'* plays a significant role in our attitude towards collective worship. Our vision is rooted in Christian theology which teaches us that God is love. We know from the Bible that God so loved the world that He gave his only son so that we may have eternal life. God teaches us how to live our lives and we use the words and example of Jesus to build a firm foundation for love and learning.

Our vision is rooted in Matthew 7:24-25 when Jesus says:

'So then, anyone who hears these words of mine and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock'

Through the teachings, actions and example of Jesus, we aim to inspire our pupils to build a foundation of love, treating everyone in the way that we would like to be treated. We strive to celebrate differences both in our school community and around the world. We ensure that there are opportunities for reflection, learning and spiritual growth in our collective worship so that pupils and adults can flourish and fulfil their God given potential.

Jesus said 'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.' Matthew 7:12

As a foundation for **learning**, we promote excellence, providing an inspirational curriculum, including our collective worship, which enables all pupils to aspire, achieve and flourish. We want our children to have positive emotional and mental health, and an understanding of their place in the wider world.

'I came that they may have life and live it to the full' John 10:10

Intent

At Callow End C.E. Primary School we aim to enable children to develop as responsible, honest, caring and reflective members of both the school and wider communities. We believe that children should be tolerant, be equipped with the skills to make moral decisions and appreciate the fact that each person is unique. As a Church of England Primary School, we see our collective worship as a central part of our school life. It is our intention to respect the beliefs of children, their families and staff, while ensuring that they are provided with an understanding of collective worship in a safe, secure and spiritual environment so that they can grow, develop and learn. Although Christian in nature, our worship includes opportunities to learn about other faiths and beliefs.

Our Collective Worship fulfils the statutory requirements set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act (and consolidated in the 1996 Education Act). It also fulfils the Diocesan requirements for a voluntary controlled church school which states that worship will be Christian in content with an Anglican emphasis. We follow the Church of England Collective Worship guidance 'Inclusive, Invitational and Inspirational'. Collective worship is at the centre of our school and is offered as part of the wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God's teaching.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; to develop a community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.

Collective Worship and the School Curriculum

Collective Worship contributes to the whole school curriculum by:

- Promoting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Supporting the values of the curriculum, including prompting British values
- Providing opportunities for all pupils to learn and achieve
- Preparing pupils for the responsibilities, experiences and opportunities of life
- Promoting key skills such as creativity, problem solving and communication

Implementation

All our Collective Worship follows the same structure: welcome, learning, reflecting, responding and sending. This follows the liturgy of the Church of England and supports the development of spiritual capacities. We also express our feelings of worth and respect to ourselves and others and we appreciate the world as a gift from God. The school also holds in services at St. James' Church at key times in the Christian calendar.

Our Collective Worship is **invitational**:

- It has a sense of occasion that is separate from the rest of the school day.
- Worship provides a safe space to nurture spiritual development through moments of wonder, reflection, stillness and prayer.
- It encourages our pupils to consider that needs of others and make change through courageous advocacy
- It fosters an appreciation of the natural world, the beauty of God's creation and our responsibility for maintaining it
- It provides pupils with opportunities to explore the spiritual aspects of their life through music, images and words.

Our Collective Worship is **inclusive**

- Christianity is an inclusive faith which mirrors the actions of Jesus Christ.
- We therefore welcome children and staff of all faiths and those with none to our worship.
- We provide an atmosphere where everyone feels safe, welcome and is appropriate for every pupil.
- Our worship recognises and celebrates the diversity of faiths, cultures and lifestyles in our community and the wider world
- It focuses on experiences and issues which are relevant to our pupils.

Our Collective Worship is **inspiring**

- Our acts of collective worship develop pupils' understanding of the Christian faith
- Worship allows learners to have an increased awareness of fundamental issues, with the time and space to reflect on them,
- Our worship promotes the ownership and understanding of our Christian vision
- Pupils can encounter the teachings of Jesus and learn about the trinity
- Worship will include appropriate elements of other faiths and secular world views.
- It will enhance, complement and extend curricular work.
- Themes for worship are chosen to ensure that children understand how the teachings of Jesus impact what we do

Planning and Organisation

Worship is planned half termly by the Headteacher in conjunction with school staff, collective worship leaders and our local clergy. It is planned using the church and SMSC calendars, as well as reflecting on our vision and values. Worship also includes musical praise, class worship and our celebration assembly.

A clear liturgy is followed for each act of collective worship:

Gather:

- Inspirational music or spirituality ppt plays as pupils enter
- Welcome words and response
- Trinity candle is lit in the name of 'God the father, God the son and God the Holy Spirit.'
- School vision
- Current value
- Bible text, explored on Big Frieze of the Bible

Engage:

- Hymn
- Learning and responding

Reflect:

- Thinking
- Questions and responses
- Prayer

Send out:

- Conclude with question or reflection point
- Words and response
- Candle blown out, reflective music as children depart

Learning Expectations and Intended Outcomes

Education, celebration, praise and hope are essential features of our worship at Callow End. We aim to make children aware of what it means to be a community committed to caring for each other, God and our environment. In doing so we aim to create an atmosphere in which children feel comfortable to explore issues for themselves, reflect upon and learn from their own experiences and those of others. We hope that our children will develop sensitivity and a sense of awe and wonder for the world of which they are a part.

Equal Opportunities

Through Collective Worship at Callow End, with a focus on Christian values, we affirm and celebrate the equality of each individual, regardless of gender, ethnicity, religious belief, physical or mental ability.

Special Educational Needs

At Callow End we are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will benefit from Collective Worship, whatever his or her ability. Therefore, when planning, we ensure that a wide range of materials and resources are used to engage all learners.

Withdrawal of Pupils

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and this should be discussed with the Headteacher. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

As outlined above, we aim to ensure that Collective Worship is meaningful for all children; for those with a faith background and those with none. We aim to ensure that parents and children feel that Collective Worship is an important time when the school comes together as an 'extended family'.

Monitoring and Evaluation

There is regular monitoring and evaluation of our Collective Worship:

Evaluation strategies used for assessing the effectiveness of our Collective Worship are:

- Observations of children's interest level and participation.
- Monitoring feedback from pupils, parents and visitors.
- Observation of demonstration of Christian values in and around school.
- Quality of responses in Class Reflection Assemblies at the end of a value.
- Focused monitoring visits by Governors.
- An audit by a member of the Diocese team (every 3 years)

Conclusion

At Callow End C.E. Primary School we offer pupils many opportunities to explore and share beliefs and consider the importance of prayer and time for reflection. We encourage them to think carefully about the relevance of ideas, beliefs and values to their own lives, to consider the needs of others and their own roles within a wider community. The opportunity is given to put Christian values into practice. Collective Worship also provides children with a time to celebrate achievement and worthwhile, positive behaviour.

This policy was revised and reviewed in November 2025