

Dr Walker's C of E Primary School



An Exceptional Place to Flourish

Though your beginning was small,
your future will flourish indeed.
Job 8:7

STATUTORY POLICY

Collective Worship Policy

Ratified by Governors	27.03.23
Review Cycle	Every 3 years

Chair of Governors: Mrs K Bush	
Headteacher: Dr L Lawson	

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Pre-amble: School Vision, Ethos and Values

Dr Walker's is a mixed Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School in Fyfield, Ongar, Essex.

We support all pupils to succeed in reaching their God given potential at Dr Walker's – 'An Exceptional Place to Flourish', by developing

- **Belief** in self and the development of confidence, respect and trust for others and an appreciation of spirituality and an understanding of faith in God;
- **Engagement** in a love for learning by nurturing curiosity and independence; and
- **Excellence** in reaching personal goals by demonstrating resilience and positive behaviour.

Our **CHRISTIAN VALUES** are reflected in:

- Standing with **COURAGE** for what is right.
- Using **CREATIVITY** in problem solving and making life beautiful.
- Treating every person and everything with **RESPECT**.
- Having **COMPASSION** for others.
- Completing every task with **PERSEVERANCE**.
- Taking **RESPONSIBILITY** for ourselves.
- Living with **HOPE** for a better future.

At Dr Walker's we provide every pupil with the care and support they need to develop as individuals and become educated and successful British Citizens who understand the importance of the following British values:

- **Democracy**
- **The rule of law**
- **Individual liberty**
- **Mutual respect and**
- **Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.**

Acknowledgement

This Policy was drafted with reference to: *Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Education's Collective Worship Policy Guidance*

Introduction

- Our Collective Worship Policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirming our vision and the associated values we derive from them and is supported by all staff and governors and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community.
- Collective Worship in our school is not simply a statutory duty, but an essential and key element of the life of our school.
- The daily Christian act of worship is heartbeat of our school, 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.
- As a church school, worship is an affirmation and celebration of our Christian ethos where children have the opportunity to learn, worship and grow in their understanding of God and of themselves.
- Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year.
- We seek to be as inclusive as possible and encourage all members of the school to contribute in a planned and structured fashion to our worship together.
- As Collective Worship is so central in the life of our school, all teachers/classroom staff as well as pupils are normally present and participate.
- We regularly welcome governors and other visitors to attend.
- Authentic worship offers pupils, staff, parents, carers, governors and all involved in our school community, the **invitation** to enter together into the presence of God. It is never coercive or manipulative, but it is central to the life of the school and expresses the ethos and values we share.

Church OF England Collective Worship Statement of entitlement

The Collective Worship in our school is to strive to be, as the SIAMS evaluation schedule asserts, the 'heartbeat' of the school, beating away beneath everything that goes on in school.

It is a sign of the strength and energy of the Christian identity of our school, reaffirming our Christian vision, values and ethos. It is a time in the school day that that should be valued and special to all.

The Church of England encourages our school to ensure that Collective Worship reflects the traditions of the Church of England and develops learners' understanding of Anglican traditions and practice. The core intention is that daily acts of worship are invitational, reflective and engaging.

Collective worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community.
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God.
- Be still and reflect.
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events.
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness.
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ.
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes.
- Share each other's joys and challenges.
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.

What we believe

- We believe that we are made in the image of God and that worship is a vital factor in this image becoming more real and meaningful.
- We believe that at its heart, Collective worship enables pupils and staff to gather together to respond to the presence, power and grace of God through:
 - prayer,
 - reflection,
 - singing,
 - sharing and
 - communicating feelings.
- We believe that worship should enable participants to develop an understanding of God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Responsibilities

Collective Worship co-ordinator	Responsibility for the arrangements of Collective Worship in a Church of England school rests with the Headteacher in consultation with the Governing Body and the parish Reverend.
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What is Collective Worship?

- Legislation requires schools, including Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled and Academy schools, to conduct daily acts of Collective Worship.
- However, the legislation does not define what is meant by the term 'Collective Worship.'
- Corporate Worship assumes a shared set of beliefs and values, i.e. a worshipping congregation meeting on a Sunday, where the worship is confessional and evangelistic (to spread the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness).
- Collective Worship is based on being:
 - 1) *Invitational*
 - 2) *Inclusive and*
 - 3) *Inspiring*
- Collective Worship recognises the collective nature and diverse beliefs and opinions of all participants.
- Collective Worship, in recognising the collectivity of all participants, can make no such assumption that all have the same beliefs and values.

- Collective Worship should be offered in such a way that all those present, regardless of faith or worldview stance, can feel comfortable and welcome to participate in the experience being offered.

Legal requirements

By Law Collective Worship must:

- Be provided for every registered child every day
- In schools with a religious character, daily Collective Worship must be in accordance with the tenets of its foundation and consistent with the denomination or religious tradition of the school.
- Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of Collective Worship. Whilst we respect this right, we kindly request that parents initially discuss this with the headteacher. If after this meeting, parents still wish for their child to be withdrawn they are requested to put this in writing.

The Intention of our Collective Worship

- It is our intention to offer Collective Worship that meets the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule.
- Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:
 - Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
 - To appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language
 - To appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist
 - Engage in an act of community
 - Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
 - Foster respect for other members of the school community and beyond.
 - Share each other's joys and challenges
 - To engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of Collective Worship in ways that lead to improving practice.
 - Encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for Collective Worship.

The Anglican Christian Tradition

- Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year.
- We do however seek to be as inclusive as possible and encourage all members of the school to contribute in a planned and structured fashion to our worship together.
- As part of our Collective Worship Practice, we can incorporate some of the following elements fundamental to our Church of England identity:
 - Using Prayer and/or reflection;
 - Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
 - Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance;
 - Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days;
 - Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use;
 - Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern; and
 - Using Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning.

The Church Calendar

- The church calendar is made up of seasons that follow the life of Jesus.
- The church year begins in late November or early December with Advent, a time of preparation for Jesus' birth.
- During Worship time we suggest using a coloured cloth (liturgical colours used in churches for altar linen, clergy robes and various hangings.) appropriate to the season of the church year, to create the sacred space for worship.
- The colour reflects the season.

MEANING / SYMBOLISM	COLOUR	SEASON
Royalty	PURPLE	Advent
Suffering and pain		Lent
Times of joy and celebrations	GOLD or WHITE	Christmas Easter
All living things, renewal and promise of new life	GREEN	Between festivals
Fire	RED	Pentecost Saints' days



Our Collective Worship Pattern and Practice

- We will be using the two year *Roots and Fruits* programme for our weekly collective worship.
- *Roots and Fruits* is inclusive of creative collective worship materials, rooting Christian values in stories from the Bible and linking to seasons to the Church year.
- The following 18 values are included:



- The 18 values are rooted in the teaching and life of Jesus. They can therefore be described as Christian Values, though may also be seen as touching on what it means to be fully human.
- *Roots and Fruits* is designed to support SIAMS requirements and meets the criteria set out in the Evaluation Schedule. It clearly roots all learning in the Bible and the Church year.
- Assemblies follow the pattern of four elements:
 - *Welcome*
 - *Learning*
 - *Reflecting and Responding*
- These match the *Windows, Mirrors, Doors* strategy.

Engaging	Sharing of core message (theme, value, story, Bible reading, activity, etc.)
Responding	Pupils are given the opportunity to reflect and respond upon the message and the impact that it has on their lives today. This may be through prayer, quiet reflection, activity, song or discussion.
Sending	Concluding the Collective Worship through one or more of the following elements: a final message, Bible verse, challenge, song, prayer, music, etc.

- Collective Worship is enriched by the use of:
 - Quotes and questions to encourage deeper thinking about each value.
 - Photographs and posters to root the teaching in the everyday experience of children.
 - Stories, poems and art.
 - Prayers and guided reflections from traditional and contemporary authors.
 - Fruits from the Roots – ideas to develop the theme of the worship through the week.

Settings for worship

- In more formal acts of worship, such as assemblies, the whole community, children and adults gather together.
- It is appropriate for the children to sit together with adults around them.
- At less formal times (e.g. prayers at going-home time) children may be on the carpet or at their desks' but care should be taken to mark that time as special, perhaps by closing eyes or focusing on a cross or other item in the classroom.
- The children always enter and leave the place of worship quietly and music is played to set the required atmosphere.
- We might light a candle as part of liturgy.

Collective Worship planning

- The school follows a programme of assembly themes, based upon the church's year and significant religious or spiritual matters.
- These are essentially a guide but strongly represent the school's values and teaching of the church.
- The messages in our Collective Worship may be followed up on in classes or in further acts of Collective Worship.
- Celebration assemblies focus on celebrating God's diverse gifts to every member of our pupil community.
- An example of a weekly Collective Worship plan:

Half-term Value:				
Classical music piece:				
Art appreciation:				
Half-term British Value:				
BIG Question:				
Monday	Roots and Shoots		Reflection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer or reflection in assembly • In class prayer before lunch • In class prayer or reflection at the end of day
Tuesday	Big Question – Class Assembly		Questions to stimulate worship and discussion	
Wednesday	Rev Brazier-Gibbs led assembly	Singing assembly	Reflection / Singing	
Thursday	Biblical story and quiz		Reflection	
Friday	Whole School celebration Attendance		Sharing reflection thoughts	

Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development

- We recognize that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area.
- For example, pupils will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meaning of life, consider their own behaviour and sometimes challenge behaviour and to recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others.

Term	Examples of Special Assemblies/Events
Autumn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest Festival • Black History Month • World Space week • National Braille Week • Anti-Bullying Week • Armistice/ Remembrance Day • Disability History Month • Children in Need • Advent • Christmas • Nativity Play • Carol service
Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Year • Chinese New Year • Internet Safety Day • Valentines • Lent • Epiphany • Ash Wednesday • Women’s History Month • Passover • Easter
Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pentecost • Ascension Day

Visitors to Collective Worship

- We welcome visitors to lead and participate in our Collective Worship.
- Visiting Collective Worship Leaders are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies.
- The welcoming member (Collective Worship co-ordinator/Headteacher) will discuss with the visitor, prior to the visitor leading Collective Worship, the content, expectations and practices during Collective Worship. The purpose is to ascertain its suitability for the school community.
- Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.
- Parents/carers and visitors are welcomed to all Friday assemblies, when good work and pupils’ achievements are celebrated.
- They are also invited to other special services or assemblies, such as the Candlelit Carols Service held on the last day of each Autumn Term.

Pupil Led Worship

- Since we believe that Collective Worship should be the activity of the whole school community, we actively promote appropriate pupil leadership as well as full participation.
- Pupils (e.g. student council / parliament) regularly plan and lead Collective Worship on a voluntary basis and under guidance of staff.

Monitoring

- Our Collective Worship practice is regularly reviewed through:
 - Governor monitoring visits
 - discussions with pupils and staff through observations and reflections
 - advice from the school’s allocated Church of England Advisor
- These evaluations feed into the planning and delivery of future worship.
- Collective Worship is monitored by the Headteacher/Collective Worship leaders/Foundation Governor.
- CPD training and resources are made available to Governors and staff to the development of our Collective Worship Practice, as signposted by the Diocese Education Team.