
Ditchling (St. Margaret's) CE Primary and Nursery School

Collective Worship Policy

October 2022



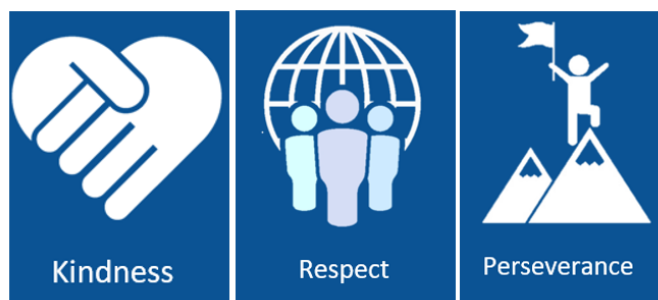
Version	Reviewed by	Approved by	Date Approved	Next Review Date
4	Headteacher	FGB	November 2022	Autumn Term 2024
In bold indicates based on East Sussex Model	East Sussex Model Policy (April 2019)	School's own policy		

Signed: _____ **Chair of Governors**

Signed: _____ **Headteacher**

**Ditchling (St. Margaret's) C.E Primary and Nursery School
Collective Worship Policy**

Learning Together. Building Success.



We are an inclusive community where Christian values empower us. With God's guidance, we work with confidence and wisdom to inspire a love of learning for the future. We are ambitious for our children and want them to achieve excellence in all aspects of life and reach their full potential within a caring Christian environment that enables all to flourish.

Together we will:

***Persevere** when times are challenging*

*Show **respect** to all those around us*

*Above all, be **kind** to one another living '**life in all its fullness**' John 10:10*

I Aims and Purpose of collective worship are:

- To all an opportunity to engage in an act of community and foster a sense of belonging.
- To enter into God's presence and express praise and thanksgiving to God.
- To provide an inclusive space that is open so that those of all faiths and none so they can consider the meaning of the message for themselves.
- To explore Christian beliefs in an open way to develop an understanding of key Christian beliefs, the teachings of Jesus, stories in the bible and the belief in the Trinitarian nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Trinity).
- To celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.
- To give opportunities for prayer, reflection and stillness.
- To encourage enquiry into spiritual and moral issues, including big questions of life.
- To affirm and celebrate the values and ideals that the school cares about, encouraging participation and response in practical action.
- To encourage development of positive personal attitudes and to contribute to the communities understanding of the school vision and values
- To provide a means whereby children can begin to understand the language and nature of Christian worship, including the expression of worship from around the world.
- To enable the children to explore their own beliefs in relation to those of others.
- To offer opportunities for moments of awe and wonder.
- To share each other's joys and challenges.
- To provide an opportunity to affirm the individual as having unique value and worth.

2 Collective Worship

- 2.1 We understand daily collective worship to be a special occasion whose purpose is to come together as a school community and to show reverence to God. We expect everyone to behave in a respectful manner and take an active part in collective worship, as appropriate for their age and personal beliefs.
- 2.2 As a church school collective worship is 'wholly of a Christian character' (in accordance with our Trust Deed), therefore we base our collective worship on the teachings of Jesus, stories in the bible and the traditions of the Church of England which are explored and made relevant to life today. We conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school community.
- 2.3 We sometimes make links with other religious traditions and beliefs or world views that are represented in the school and the wider community to help the community to gain deeper insights.
- 2.4 Collective worship is not designated as curriculum time under regulations and should not be subsumed into any part of the curriculum.

3. Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. The usual pattern is:

Monday	Whole School collective worship Values Led SLT
Tuesday	Church Led Collective Worship
Wednesday	Class Assembly sharing
Thursday	Whole School Excellent Effort Celebration Pupil Led
Friday	Singing Rehearsals/ Spinnaker

- 3.1 We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.
- 3.2 The headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct collective worship. Local clergy or the church youth worker leads collective worship weekly. Other visitors sometimes lead collective worship.
- 3.3 There is an annual plan (saved on the server) with a different focus so giving breadth to the children's understanding and experience.
- 3.4 Themes for collective worship are planned at the beginning of each year in conjunction with the local church. The headteacher has responsibility for the organisation, timetabling and resourcing of worship.
- 3.5 Records of collective worship are kept on the network.
- 3.6 We visit the Church to hold school lead services seven times a year. These take place at the end of each term and are usually an opportunity to celebrate key Christian festivals. These are planned by the AV (Audio Visual) Gang in conjunction with the Headteacher and local church.
- 3.7 The Nursery have their own church services 6 times a year. These take place at the end of each term and are led by the Youth Worker.

4. Content

We take the themes for our collective worship from the traditions of the Christian faith, our school values, festivals in the Christian calendar, charity events or respond to major world events, for example; famine, disaster, significant births, marriages and deaths. Where possible, plans link to the learning e.g. Healthy Living fortnight, Sustainable Development Goals.

- 4.1 **Liturgy:** The patterns of Christian worship are called liturgy (Greek for the 'work of the people'). It dictates the pattern for the act of worship and provides opportunities for many people to contribute within it. There is regular active involvement of the children through organisational assistance (Audio Visual Gang), leading the gathering and dismissal sentences, readings, prayer and drama.

4.2 **Prayer:**

I am praying to you because I know you will answer, O God. Bend down and listen as I pray. Psalm 17:6.

Prayer can be used in a variety of ways; recited prayers, periods of silence, free prayers, sung prayers, child written prayers, times of reflection and moments of individual thought. Traditional and formal prayers are used, including the Lord's Prayer and our School Prayer which are used regularly. There is no assumption that children will pray but all are invited to share the thought, reflect on a quote or question, or simply listen. Pupils will be introduced to the practice of prayer in a range of ways. A candle is often lit to mark the time of prayer and reflection. (Appendix 3)

A time of silence and reflection during which personal prayers or thoughts can be offered is appropriate at times. It offers an opportunity for spiritual development and children learning the value of silence for their own wellbeing. It is important to send the children out with a thought, verse, prayer or question to enable them to continue their thinking and spur them into action (when appropriate) following the collective worship.

4.3 **Music:** Music is selected to link with the theme and helps to create the right atmosphere and contribute to the mood of the collective worship. Children play music as others enter and leave the hall for Good Effort collective worship so celebrating their talents.

4.4 **Hymns and songs:** *Sing to the LORD a new song; Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Psalm 96:1* Singing is part of collective worship. Songs range from traditional hymns to modern songs, including songs from around the world. Songs that remind children of God's character and love for them, of Bible verses and the teachings of Jesus are appropriate for collective worship. The songs that are sung in worship reflect the Christian foundation of the school.

4.5 **Readings:** *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105* Quotes, stories or readings from the bible are included in collective worship. Sometimes other readings, dramas or poems are used to further support the learning. The passage from the bible can be read from any version as the leader decides. Opportunities are provided to relate the stories, verses or teachings from the Bible into individuals lives (application).

4.6 **Balance of activities:** Creative arts, including dance and small dramatic performances, are used as a stimulus for thought, learning and reflection to allow all children and adults to engage with the worship.

4.7 **Visual Aids** of all kinds can provide the focus for thought, reflection, stimulation and discussion. The focal table is covered with a cloth, the colour of which reflects the season in the church calendar.

4.8 Once a week our collective worship focuses on the achievements and learning of the children. Collective worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, showing that all children are valued, enabled to flourish and all achievements are recognised as God given.

4.9 We invite parents to join us for special celebrations in church at Harvest, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and at the end of each year when Year 6 leave us. This promotes koinonia (community) and helps parents to learn more about our vision and values and the school's Christian foundation. Parents also attend the class collective worship's that take place 3 times per year. Children actively participate in preparing and leading these services.

4.10 We welcome Governors' attendance at our collective worship on a regular basis.

4.11 Reflection areas in classrooms reflect the theme, festival or value being focused on in the collective worship. Children are encouraged to use these areas during the week. Each reflection has a Worry box for the children to use and a Reflection where the children can respond to the themes in collective worship. They also have a prayer book including some traditional prayers as well as prayers the children have written.

5. **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (see separate policy)**

- 5.1 The pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is built upon through the whole school commitment for mutual respect, high expectations of behaviour and opportunities for reflection, forgiveness and restoration of relationships.
- 5.2 Spiritual development is encouraged through thinking about the divine, thinking creatively and through opportunities for prayer and reflection.
- 5.3 Moral and Social development are promoted through the consideration of how people behave and relate to others and a consideration of things that influence the decision making processes.
- 5.4 Cultural development is enhanced through making links with the link school and through considering how Christians worship or celebrate festivals around the world.
- 5.5 A common sense of purpose, self-discipline and respect of individuality is acknowledged when achievements are recognised and celebrated.

6. Links with the local church

- 6.1 The school works closely with St Margaret's Church, Ditchling.
- 6.2 The school joins with the village for the annual Act of Remembrance, when Armistice Day is on a weekday.
- 6.3 Education Sunday (or equivalent) is celebrated in church or in school with the congregation attending a Sunday service in the school hall.
- 6.4 The church supports the school annual prayer space event during which all children visit and respond to a number of prayer spaces.

7. Right of Withdrawal

- 7.1 We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending collective worship. Pupils withdrawn from collective worship are suitably supervised. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their decision, but are invited to discuss this with the Headteacher prior to making a decision. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- 7.2 The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

8. CCLI licence (Collective Worship copyright licence)

- 8.1 Schools increasingly use technology to create, distribute or display songs, service sheets and content. Copyright owners should be fairly compensated for the copying of their works. A CCLI license allows schools to play and show Christian songs and videos that are copyrighted within school and provides the songwriters and artists with an income for their work. It is important that every Christian song or music video that is used in worship is reported on the CCLI website. Please see their website for more details. <https://uk.ccli.com/about-ccli/> <https://uk.ccli.com/reporting/> You need a licence to reproduce the words of hymns or worship songs for use during collective worship and other events at your school. Similarly services held at church are covered and reported by church.

9. Monitoring and Review

- 9.1 It is the role of the headteacher and the governor responsible for Christian Distinctiveness has responsibility for Religious Education and Collective Worship. They monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The Governor concerned liaises with the headteacher and a written report is given to the Governors on aspects of church school distinctiveness including Religious Education and Collective Worship twice a year.

- 9.2 The views of children and parents are also collected throughout the year to monitor the impact of these times. The outcomes are reported to the governor responsible for Christian Distinctiveness by the headteacher.