



ELTHAM

CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL

SINCE 1814

Collective Worship Policy

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Next review: September 2026

“Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs”

Psalm 100 v 2



Collective Worship

Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly with your God

We believe this policy should be a working document that is fit for purpose, represents the school ethos, enables consistency and quality across the school and is related to the following legislation:

- Education Act 1944
- Education Reform Act 1988
- Education Act 1993
- Education (Special Schools) Regulations 1994

The following documentation is also related to this policy:

- Religious Education and Collective Worship (Circular Number 1/94) (DfE)

We have a legal requirement to provide religious education and daily collective worship for all our registered pupils but with the exception of those pupils who are withdrawn from these activities by their parents.

Collective worship at Eltham Church of England Primary School will be carried out in accordance with the statutory Instruments of Government. It will, therefore, be wholly Christian in nature.

We are an explicitly Anglican Christian school and our worship forms a key element of this distinction. We are aware that there might be some who object to any form of collective worship but until the law changes it is still a legal requirement to hold acts of daily worship and we use this time to build community and trust as we endeavour to answer the question “What does the Lord require of you?” to **‘Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly with your God’**. It is also used to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

What is Collective Worship? We understand collective worship to be a special act or occasion- its main purpose is to show reverence to God and involves pupils and staff (and at times parents, governors and other visitors) coming together each and every day.

As a Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for ensuring that Collective Worship takes place and is wholly Christian in nature rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher. We acknowledge all schools must provide an act of daily collective worship for all registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn from this by their parents). This may be provided within daily assembly but the distinction between collective worship and assembly should be made clear. (They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear. It can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups.) Therefore, as a Church of England primary school, we will always refer to these gatherings as ‘Collective Worship’.

We believe that Christian worship in a Church of England school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God and taking time to develop our own sense of awe and wonder

about the world and the people in it. Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to our Christian and Anglican tradition, for example;

- Using prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican sentences and responses such as:
 - The Lord is here / His Spirit is with us
 - Peace be with you/ and also with you
 - Go in peace to love and serve the Lord / In the name of Christ, Amen
- Using Collects as a focus for worship
- Eucharists
- Encouraging links with the worship of the local parish church, Eltham Parish Church with St John the Baptist.

We are aware that when we are planning collective worship, we must by law consider the ages of the pupils, their aptitudes and their family and religious backgrounds.

We acknowledge that parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and we will, therefore, agree to any such requests. Alternative supervised arrangements will be made for all pupils excused from collective worship.

We believe it is essential that this policy clearly identifies and outlines the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the procedures and arrangements that is connected with this policy.

Aims

- To ensure that all pupils take part in a daily act of worship of a broadly Christian character.
- To provide all pupils with an opportunity to worship God.
- To show pupils how to worship by participating and responding.
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.
- To promote and embed a common ethos with shared values and positive attitudes.
- To ensure compliance with all relevant legislation connected to this policy.
- To work with other schools and the local authority to share good practice in order to improve this policy.

Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body has:

- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure daily collective worship takes place in the school;
- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure all school personnel and stakeholders are aware of and comply with this policy;
- has responsibility to ensure collective worship in a church school should be carried out in accordance with the school's ethos statement, which is to be found in the statutory Instruments of Government. It must, therefore, ***be wholly Christian in nature***.
- responsibility for ensuring that the school complies with all equalities legislation;
- nominated a designated Equalities governor to ensure that appropriate action will be taken to deal with all prejudice related incidents or incidents which are a breach of this policy;

- responsibility for ensuring funding is in place to support this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring this policy and all policies are maintained and updated regularly;
- responsibility for ensuring all policies are made available to parents;
- make effective use of relevant research and information to improve this policy;
- the responsibility of involving the School Council in:
 - determining this policy with the Governing Body;
 - discussing improvements to this policy during the school year;
 - organising surveys to gauge the thoughts of all pupils;
 - reviewing the effectiveness of this policy with the Governing Body.
- Reverend Caroline Risdon, Parish Priest will:
 - visit the school regularly;
 - work closely with the Headteacher and the Collective Worship lead;
 - ensure this policy and other linked policies are up to date;
 - ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of this policy;
 - attend training related to this policy.
- Take responsibility for celebrating the effort, success achievements of pupils and school personnel;
- Take responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy.

Role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher, as the spiritual lead of the school, will:

- ensure all school personnel, pupils and parents are aware of and comply with this policy;
- ensure that daily collective worship will:
 - be well planned
 - be of a high quality
 - take place at a set time every day
 - take place as a whole school, phase group or a year group
 - be explicitly Christian
 - use prayer and liturgy as the core elements of worship
 - incorporate readings and bible references
 - be sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school
 - promote a sense of community
 - be a special time in the school day
- nominate a member of staff to be responsible for the organisation and development of this policy;
- work closely with the link governor;
- provide leadership and vision in respect of equality;
- make effective use of relevant research and information to improve this policy;
- provide guidance, support and training to all staff;

- monitor the effectiveness of this policy by speaking with pupils, school personnel, parents and governors

Organisation

The Education Reform Act states that collective worship need no longer be at the start of the school day, and worship may take place in a single act of worship or separate acts of worship in different age groups.

We have decided to hold a daily act of worship in each key stage and at different times.

Collective worship on a Monday will be first thing in the morning after registration for the whole school to settle the children and prepare them for the week ahead. Another whole school collective worship with Reverend Caroline Risdon will take place at the end of the day on a Tuesday. For the rest of the week, it will include singing and Golden book in key stages. Key stage 2 in the morning and Key stage 1 in the afternoon due to timetabling. RHE will take place in class throughout the week.

There will be occasions when worship, because of unforeseen circumstances (such as COVID), will take place either on zoom/Google meets, or in individual classrooms and be conducted by class teachers.

Composition

Music - CD/YouTube music should be played at the beginning and end of collective worship which, if possible, fits in with the theme for the week/term.

Hymns - should be chosen to reflect the theme for the week or term. New hymns to be taught correctly with lyrics explained to the children.

Prayers - the children should be introduced to several prayers which we expect them to learn. The compilation of pupils' prayers should be actively encouraged and children will be asked to share these in our collective worship times.

Provider - the provider may be the Headteacher, Deputy Head, class teacher, pupils, vicar, or outside speaker.

Theme - the theme to follow will be that planned by the co-ordinator.

Activities

In planning collective acts of worship, we must bear in mind the following activities: -

- singing, readings and storytelling, rituals, drama, music for listening, responses, audio-visual presentation, interviews, symbols, prayer, dance, visiting speakers and cooking e.g. Shrove Tuesday -pancake making!

The collective worship timetable will be circulated at least one week before the new term commences.
Each week will include:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<u>Whole school</u> Headteacher/ Senior Leader <u>10:45am</u>	<u>Whole School</u> Vicar / Curate <u>10:45am</u>	<u>Golden Book</u> Celebration Collective Worship <u>10:30am</u>	<u>'In-Class'</u> Class based Collective Worship	<u>WORSHIP</u> Sung worship <u>10:45am –</u> <u>11:10am</u>

Planning the Year

When planning the year the co-ordinator will think carefully about the inclusion of the following :-

- High days and holidays
- Saints’ Days
- Feasting for Festivals
- World Faiths
- National occasions and events
- World Events

Planning for the academic year will take place before the end of each half term and all staff will then be given a half-termly plan of the proposed collective acts of worship.

Involvement of Local Religious Groups

We believe that the involvement of local religious groups is vital to the development of our pupils. Therefore, speakers from local religious groups and other places of worship will be invited to speak to our pupils when we celebrate collective worship.

Involvement of Others

We actively encourage the involvement of outside speakers such as the local Police, school crossing patrol attendant etc. who will be invited to take an active part in our collective worship on a set theme.

Involvement of Parents/Carers

Parents will be invited to attend their child's class assembly when a performance/assembly arises. Parents will also be asked if they have any input on a set theme and would like to come in and share with the children.

CELEBRATION Collective worship

The EYFS, KS1 and KS2 golden book collective worship is an occasion when the school meets to share together the successes and achievements of individual pupils.

Raising Awareness of this Policy

We will raise awareness of this policy via:

- the School Handbook/Prospectus
- the school website
- the Staff Handbook
- meetings with parents such as introductory, transition, parent-teacher consultations and periodic curriculum workshops
- school events
- meetings with school personnel
- communications with home such as weekly newsletters and of end of half term newsletters
- reports such annual report to parents and Headteacher reports to the Governing Body
- information displays in the main school entrance

Monitoring the Implementation and Effectiveness of the Policy

The practical application of this policy will be reviewed annually or when the need arises by the coordinator, the Headteacher and a nominated governor.

A statement of the policy's effectiveness and the necessary recommendations for improvement will be presented to the Governing Body for further discussion and endorsement.