

# St Edmund's C of E Primary and Nursery School



Learning through faith,  
we dream, believe and achieve.

## Collective Worship

Reviewed September 2021

## Introduction

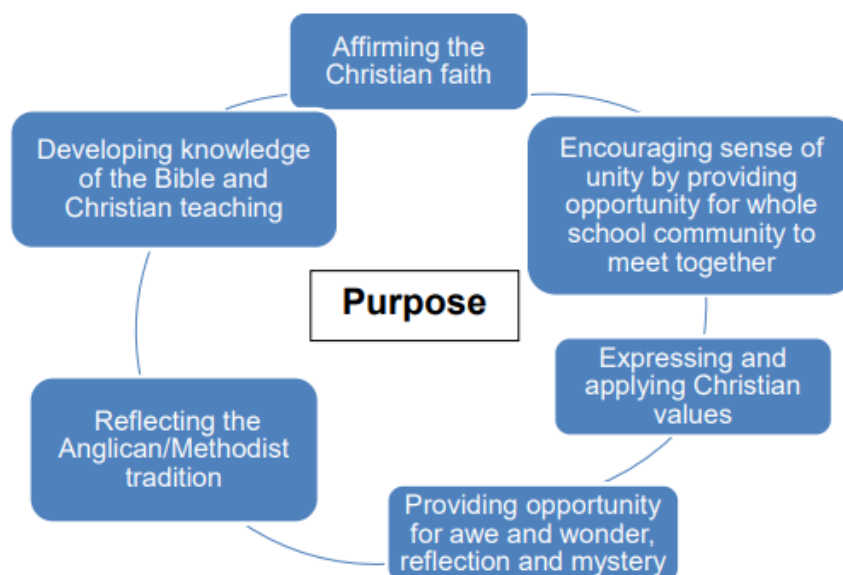
In accordance with legal requirement, but also reflecting our status as a Church of England school we provide an act of worship every day for all pupils.

## Aims

Collective worship should reflect some of the essential features within the rich traditions of Anglican prayer and worship. We acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but we aim to make clear the difference between the two. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and is not subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including Religious Education. The responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body.

Collective worship in this school is a legal requirement, but for us, is also an integral part of school life as it is central to the Anglican tradition as expressed in the Trust Deed. Collective Worship is central to our core vision and links our day intrinsically together as we come together to learn about the teachings of Jesus. At St Edmund's, our Collective Worship policy is embedded in the context of the vision, aims and values of our school as a church of England school. There is a strong connection between this policy and the Diocesan vision of 'Growing disciples, wider, younger, deeper'. Parents, should they choose to do so, have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. Our policy has been formally adopted by the governing body in consultation with the Headteacher, Nadeem Shah.

## Purpose of Collective Worship



### **Roles and Responsibilities of people within the school community**

Governors, in order to fulfil their statutory duty, must ensure that the school fulfils its duty to monitor that the school complies with its legal and Diocesan obligations. In our Governing body there is currently one Foundation Governor, Paul Smith, who monitors the quality of collective worship and ensures collective worship is consistent with the trust deed. Our Diocesan support, Jane Lewis advises, monitors and supports our Christian Distinctiveness development through staff training and audits of our everyday practice. Our Head teacher, Nadeem Shah, has the responsibility to ensure that day to day acts of collective worship are taking place. Our Coordinator, Niki Hird-Shaw has the delegated responsibility to ensure that day to day acts of collective worship take place. All of our staff team take turns to lead our collective worship. They plan and deliver acts of worship in line with our vision, aims and values.

### **Links with St Edmund's Church.**

We have strong links with Reverend Nicky Carnall and Jenny Clifton from St Edmund's church. We welcome them into school, and they lead Collective Worship for us regularly. We share special celebrations in St Edmund's church at significant points of the year such as Harvest, Easter and Christmas. We are proud of the strong links that we are forging. The Head teacher welcomes advice and support from the church in the constant drive to develop the Christian Distinctiveness of the school. We welcome the opportunity to share worship with parents during the major Christian festivals in school and church.

### **Organisation**

Our Collective Worship takes place in the middle of the school morning in our main hall in which we are surrounded with visual reminders of our Christian values and school prayers. This enables us all to come together to reflect on our day so far and to share in reflections and worship in a calm, ordered manner.

Each half-term concentrates on one of our Christian values in depth, enabling us to explore this value in detail to facilitate self-reflection beliefs. Our Christian values of:

Respect – I will value everyone

Justice and Forgiveness – I will be fair

Perseverance – I will never give up

Compassion – I will take care of everyone and everything that surrounds me

Truth and Trust – I will be honest and listen to others

Responsibility - I will make sure I do my bit

... are woven into our everyday lives as we develop these qualities in every member of our school. We base our stories on Christian teaching and share examples of how Jesus lived his life according to these values. We involve children in the organisation and delivery of our acts of worship; they lead our prayers, answer questions, be involved in drama and contributing ideas. Prayer and Reflection  
Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. Towards the end of collective worship, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged sometimes signified by the lighting of a candle. A cross is displayed in each classroom providing an area of reflection and quiet. The school has a Prayer area. Children are

encouraged to write short prayers and attach them to the prayer tree in the hall. Sometimes these are related to a school value, on other occasions this could be a personal prayer.

On Fridays our 'coming together' is a 'Special Mentions' Assembly in which we celebrate the achievements of our pupils, both academic and personal, inside school and from outside. We truly love to celebrate these achievements together and they reflect our core values as the children grow in their respect and admiration for each other.

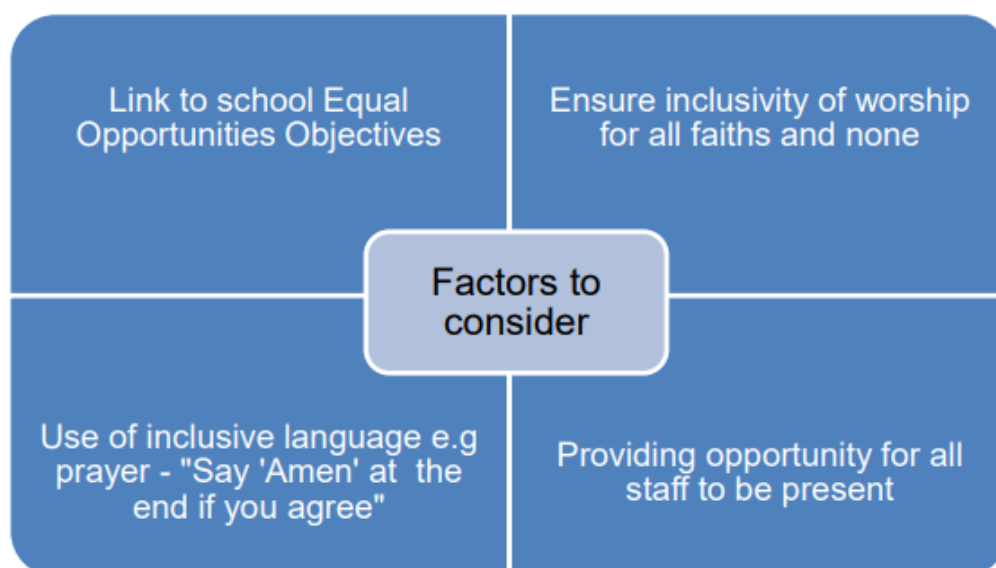
### Role of the Co-ordinator

The role of our RE lead is to...

- Communicate between RE and collective worship co-ordinators.
- Identify and record themes and resources.
- Support colleagues in accessing appropriate resources to enable the daily delivery of collective worship.
- Identify training needs including accessing appropriate training and the provision of training for all staff in school.
- Monitor acts of worship and evaluate their impact.
- Ensure all staff recognise the need to develop themes and content beyond collective worship.
- Planning, Content and Detail The themes for collective worship reflect our Christian Values focus for that month, the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events.

The worship begins with the children entering the hall/classroom accompanied by a song or music for the week. The piece of music could come from a variety of cultures. There is a greeting which is responded to. The candle is lit, and the collective worship begins. The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with a prayer and/or quiet reflection time, the prayer is often said by a child. The candle is then put out before any notices are given. This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played or song is sung.

### Equal Opportunities



**Links with other churches and Christian organisations globally**

We recognise the importance of teaching our children about Christianity around the world, and endeavour to do so through collective worship activities and stories. We use a data projector as a resource in Collective Worship which allows us to access images and films of Christian people and practices around the world. It is also important that children and young people grow up with an understanding of and respect for other faiths and what they contribute.

**Visitors**

Visitors On arriving at school we ask our visitors to sign-in for safeguarding reasons. They are more than welcome to join in with our Collective Worship if they are in school at that time. As always, we respect all visitors' beliefs, views and faiths. All are welcome. In turn, we ask all visitors to respect the values and ethos of our school during their visit.