



Collective Worship Policy



Signed by Chair of RAP Committee during COVID-19	
Signed Acting Headteacher	
Date	November 2020
Review Date	July 2021

Collective Worship Policy

Aims

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship in Latchford St James Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School are to:

- provide an opportunity for worshipping and building a relationship with God
- promote, model and live and work by a Christian ethos with shared, explicit values
- become familiar with styles of worship in the Anglican tradition and build a relationship with *and feel part of* our church and its congregation
- provide opportunities to consider spiritual and moral issues
- enable the exploration of own experiences and beliefs
- encourage participation and response
- provide opportunities for quiet reflection and prayer
- develop a sense of community spirit and nurture a sense of stewardship for the wider world and our fellow human beings
- enable everyone to celebrate the whole life of the school in the presence of God
- recognise that all individuals are created in God's image and are therefore unique, valued and special
- Enjoy worship, church life and Christian practice.

Collective Worship

As a Voluntary Aided School the acts of Collective Worship will be in accordance with our trust Deed and the Anglican tradition and is held every day, for every child, unless parents request withdrawal. Although worship is based on broad foundations, it respects the personal integrity of all those that attend.

We understand Collective Worship as a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. It therefore involves us gathering together to express feelings of respect and worth for ourselves, others, for our local community and our world as gifts from God, as distinct from meeting together simply to exchange information or deal with organisational issues.

Collective Worship will provide participants with the opportunity to reflect on and develop an understanding of the spiritual dimension of life.

Collective Worship will enhance and promote our endeavour to create a happy, secure and stimulating Christian environment in which all members of our school community can grow in self-esteem and develop their full potential and 'be the best that we can be'.

We believe that Collective Worship is a valuable time for children, staff, parents/carers and visitors to come together as a community, to celebrate as a community and grow as a community.

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Elements of Worship

- Moments of reflection and prayer to think about ourselves in relation to others, the universe and what God might mean to us.
- The acceptance of various aspects of life; some happy some sad.
- The sense of awe and wonder.
- The celebration of personal success and those who give service to others.
- The concern for the created world and for all life.
- The acknowledgement of moral demands in relationships with each other, so that some behaviours such as bullying, telling lies or stealing are not acceptable.
- Exploring a relationship with God through the teachings of the Bible.
- Embedding our Christian values in the life of our school through our words, deeds and prayers: *hope, generosity, friendship, peace, respect, love, faith, forgiveness, compassion, honesty and service.*

Organisation of Collective Worship During Covid-19

We hold a daily act of worship in our school and takes place in different size groups- whole school, key stages or just one class.

Day	Time	Group	Leader
Monday	10:15-10:30	Class- Virtual	Father Michael, Rev Rob, Frances Ireland
Tuesday	10:15-10:30	Class- Virtual	Head or deputy
Wednesday	10:15-10:30	Class	Class Teachers
Thursday	10:15-10:30	Class	Class teachers
Friday	9 – 9:20	Class	Class Teachers - Celebration Worship

We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We value this time when we gather together as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way and to use this time as a period of calm reflection. We endeavour to accompany our children to and from the hall in a calm, reverential manner. We expect all participants to be thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and join in with prayers and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere through the use of music, candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. We encourage active participation by involving the children in drama, role play, readings and their own prayers. KS2 children worship in St James' Church every half term, contributing actively to the Eucharist service.

Delivery of Collective Worship

At Latchford St James CofE Primary School we deliver Collective Worship through a variety of media – song, story, drama, music, poetry etc. A variety of teacher resources support the planning and leadership of Collective Worship, these can be found in the Meeting Room, Headteacher's room and online.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar, linking these to our monthly values. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum or as part of the Focus of the Week.

We plan our worship as part of a series of themes in advance of the day they take place. Although sometimes the plans need to change in order to respond to important issues relevant to the school, local community or events further afield. Leaders of worship complete a planning sheet showing details of the theme, content and hymns they have used. These are completed on a daily basis

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and are kept in the hall. Periodically, one of our worships is used to introduce a common Christian concept, linked to our RE syllabus.

Our whole school Celebration Worship, which takes place on Fridays, reflect the achievements and learning of the children. These worships offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. Celebration Worship plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school. Latchford St James CofE Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

We welcome and encourage governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

We have a comments book in which we invite parents/ carers and visitors to share their thoughts and feelings about our worship.

Right of withdrawal

Any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school makes alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this.

The Head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship.

Monitoring and review

Responsibility for monitoring and reviewing Collective Worship lies with the Foundation Governors, Ethos Group and the Head teacher. This policy will be reviewed annually.