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The Slough and East Berkshire C. of E.

Multi Academy Trust

Colnbrook C. of E. Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Owner:	Headteacher
Ratified by Governing Body:	M. A. Weeks
Date Ratified:	2026
Date Policy to be reviewed:	2027

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Our Vision Statement

At Colnbrook we want to grow young people who believe in themselves, so they are confident and courageous and not discouraged from their path. They are resilient when faced with challenge. We want our pupils to believe in each other and to feel supported; never alone on their journey.

Our pupils will have the strength of character to set themselves aspirational goals in learning and life. They will achieve their best and create their own inspirational story and memories.

These values are at the heart of everything we do here at Colnbrook Church of England Primary School. They reflect the qualities that staff and governors want the children to develop and display in all that they do.

Aspiration, Resilience, Respect, Responsibility, Community, Compassion.

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1. Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life of our school. Worship offers children and staff an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian vision and ethos. It reflects the mission statement and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

At Colnbrook, our vision "Be strong and courageous" and its linked Bible story, the story of Joshua and the battle of Jericho, provides the main driver of our worship.

As a Church of England school, we see collective worship as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of our school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

Acts of worship will be invitational, inclusive and inspiring. All are invited to engage in their own way, develop an understanding that Christianity is an inclusive faith, and provide opportunities to promote ownership of the school's vision, regardless of their own personal faith or worldview.

2. Legal Principles:

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

We have taken due regard of the Church of England's Education Office guidance document on collective worship ('Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring') in the preparation of this policy and in our planning of acts of worship.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance, we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the headteacher. The school will ensure that parents fully understand the nature and purpose of collective worship before any withdrawal arrangements are implemented. Where a child is withdrawn, suitable alternative arrangements will be agreed with the school.

3. Aims of Collective Worship

Collective worship is a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds or beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Our collective worship provides the pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship and Christian festivals.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.
- Inspire pupils to become courageous advocates, empowered by Christian teaching to make a positive difference within the school, local community and wider world.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to develop their oracy skills through discussion, questioning, reflection and the sharing of ideas, enabling them to articulate their beliefs, values, thoughts and responses with confidence and respect.

At times worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth;
- consider moral issues in a Christian context and to;
- Enhance social understanding;
- explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage.

4. Colnbrook's Christian Values

These values are at the heart of everything we do and they reflect the qualities that staff and governors want the children to develop and display. Staff are expected to model these values for the children. These values, alongside our Christian vision, form the basis of all acts of worship.

- Having **aspiration**

Jeremiah 29:11

'I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for.'

- Demonstrating **resilience**

Joshua 1:9

'Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident! Don't be afraid or discouraged, for I, the Lord your God, am with you wherever you go.'

- Showing **respect**

Romans 12:10
'Be eager to show respect for one another.'

- Taking **responsibility**

Matthew 25:23
'I can trust you. You have taken good care of a few things. I will put you in charge of many things.'

- Caring for the **community**

Corinthians 12:12-13
'The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and although all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.'

- Showing **compassion**

Luke 10:27
'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind and love your neighbour as you love yourself.'

5. Spiritual Development

Spiritual exploration and development permeates the schools ethos, opportunities for spirituality are built into every day, weaved through the curriculum and encouraged in free time. We recognise the link between spirituality and mental wellbeing and regularly present opportunities for spiritual reflection or they naturally and organically arise.

Spirituality helps to enrich our pupils understanding of themselves, how they relate to each other and the wider society. We encourage our children to express themselves and their feelings with empathy. We aim to develop imagination, curiosity and a real joy discovering new skills and knowledge, building resilience in the face of challenge.

We look to promote a strong sense of moral purpose and a love of what is good. We encourage time for stillness and for quiet reflection. Most of all we want our pupils at to feel a strong sense of being valued, and provided with the loving attention that will give them the time, confidence and belief to grow as young people knowing that there is something wonderful about them.

6. The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective worship can take place in a variety of groupings in the school hall, classrooms and on occasions outside. Our local parish Church, St Thomas', is used to host acts of collective worship. We follow the seasons of the Church year and within this significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost and other days such as Candlemas are usually celebrated.

The school follows a termly pattern of planning for collective worship, based on the liturgical calendar. Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote thinking that extends beyond collective worship. Collective worship is organised around our vision, bible story (Battle of Jericho), our values as well as taking time to reflect on global Christianity and faiths. Worship also takes into account school life and may reflect themes or relevant activities.

We encourage visitors from other faiths to lead worship to enable children to consider differing worldview perspectives.

The following weekly pattern of worship is usually followed:

Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
Weekly Theme – SLT led	Weekly Theme – SLT led	Weekly Theme – Visiting Vicar led	Hymn Practise/ class-led worship	Celebration Worship – SLT led

Termly planners for collective worship, containing links to resources, can be found on the staff shared drive.

At each collective worship, the worship leader will:

- Light the candle and say the liturgical greeting "**The Lord is with us"** with pupils responding **"Let us Praise his Name"** at the start of each act of worship.
- At the end of worship explain, 'We are extinguishing our worship candle because our act of worship has finished' or similar. As we extinguish the candle the leader will say, **"God be with you"** with the pupils responding **"And also with you."**

7. Collective Worship and Religious Education

Collective worship and RE should not be confused with one another, or used as vehicles to teach each other. The time allocated for collective worship is not curriculum time but a separate entitlement for all registered pupils unless withdrawn by their parents/carers.

RE is an academic subject, where children learn about the different beliefs and faiths of believers, collective worship enables pupils to approach the threshold of worship and engage with their own spirituality and experience the Christian faith in action. There may be stories from the Bible that occur in both RE and collective worship, but the motivation of and focus for exploring the stories will be different.

Reflection or prayer areas should be separate to RE displays or working walls and ideally should not be near each other. Reflection areas should be a place where children can come and write or create a prayer or express an idea to help them to develop spiritually, think quietly about their own faith and interact with the images, objects or Biblical texts in the area. An RE working wall should document the academic learning journey that has gone on during the RE lessons.

8. Leading Worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church community. Children are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

9. Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in Worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme, and the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils. Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as dance and drama alongside traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection and our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

10. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the headteacher. After each review, it will be ratified by the local governing board. The Local Governing Board will monitor its effectiveness in supporting the school's Christian vision, values and distinctiveness during the academic year.

11. Links with other policies

- Equalities Policy
- Statement for Spiritual Development