



# Overton

## Church of England School

# Policy For Collective Worship

Date Agreed:	September 2015
Review Date:	September 2016

Revision No:	Date of issue:	Prepared by:	Approved by:	Comments
1	24 Jan 2014	CP/JJ	DBE	Template from Portsmouth & Winchester DBE Standards Committee
2	September	FW		Personalised to reflect Overton

First Floor, Peninsular House • Wharf Road • Portsmouth • PO2 8HB

TEL: 02392 899 679 • FAX: 02392 899 651

Website: [www.portsmouth.anglican.org](http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org)

Portsmouth Diocesan Board of Finance, a company limited by guarantee. Registered in London No. 226466. Charity No. 249256  
Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance, a company limited by guarantee. Registered in London No. 142351. Charity No. 249276

## Collective Worship Policy for Church of England Schools in the Portsmouth & Winchester Dioceses

	2015			
3	September 2016	FW		No changes made
4	September 2017	FW		No changes made
5	September 2018	FW		No changes made
6	September 2019	FW		No changes made
7				

# Collective Worship Policy for Church of England Schools in the Portsmouth & Winchester Dioceses

## Introduction

This policy is an agreed statement of the values and aims of collective worship at Overton Church of England School.

**References to ‘parish’ refer to the local parish church which the school is linked to. This is the parish named in the Instrument of Government for the school (IoG). The vicar will be the ‘principal officiating minister’ of the named parish.**

*“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God.” William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury 1942-44*

## Worship in our school should:

As worship:

- Should at its simplest create a time and space where we can come closer to God and God can come closer to us
- Be distinctively Christian
- Use and promote the clearly identified core Christian values of the school
- Have **Integrity** as acts of Anglican worship whilst being **Invitational, Inclusive** and **inspirational**
- Be based on Biblical text or themes
- Enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Be central in importance to the life of our school community, which is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world
- Reflect on human existence
- Use the seasons and festivals of the Christian year
- Develop understanding of Anglican traditions and the practice of the local parish church

For people:

- Develop personal spirituality within the school community through a range of experiences including individual and collective prayer
- Engage pupils and adults with collective worship, making it relevant and transformational to the lives of members of the whole school community
- Celebrate the God given gifts and talents of individuals and the whole school community
- Make a significant contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of members of the school community
- Consider the beliefs and values of others, especially those within the school community
- Raise aspirations of individuals and the school community

To comply:

- Reflect the trust deed
- Be clearly outlined in the school prospectus and documentation
- Involve learners and adults in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship
- Be monitored and evaluated for the impact it has on the school community by foundation governors

## Aims

- To promote the joy of worship as engaging, inspiring and transformative.
- To develop spirituality, morality, social and cultural values.
- Sometimes to provide a peaceful environment enabling stillness, reflection and prayer.
- Sometimes to be noisy and joyous with singing, music, dance, drama, gymnastics etc.
- To give an opportunity to acquire a secure knowledge of the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible.
- To understand, celebrate and develop children’s knowledge of Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and religious festivals in the Anglican Church’s year.
- To appreciate that people, cultures and beliefs differ and to demonstrate respect, tolerance and generosity towards them.
- To develop pupils’ sense of self-worth and to provide opportunities to celebrate achievements.
- To develop a caring attitude to others and a sense of community and loyalty.
- To provide opportunities for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate collective worship.
- To invite clergy of the parish, other lay members of the parish and other Christian leaders in the community [as are acceptable to the parish church] to lead worship weekly.

## How we achieve our aims

We aim to promote collective acts of worship, which are rich, meaningful experiences that are appropriate and significant to the pupil's needs, age, development and interest by:

- Creating a sense of occasion and reverence following the 4 central attributes of worship.
- Arranging worship at different places when possible, different times with different people and groupings, involving all members of the school community at some time.
- Planning and linking themes which focus on a particular idea/concept, i.e. the liturgical year; RE curriculum, festivals and celebrations, within Christian and other faith traditions, our Christian values and the SEAL or RRR or Values programme – celebrating achievements, good work and behaviour.
- Using a wide range of resources, devotional aids, artefacts (from religious and secular sources), music, art, drama and external speakers to engage children's interest.
- Encourage children to participate and experience different styles of worship, e.g. prayer, praise, silence, rituals, and become familiar with the language of worship, Biblical readings and liturgy.
- Providing opportunities for pupils to reflect, contemplate on their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using the centrality of prayer – personal silent prayer, personal shared prayers, collective prayers, writing prayers.
- Providing opportunities that develop pupil's awareness of what is beautiful, good, wonderful, awesome and puzzling in life experience.
- Involving pupils and members of the wider community to participate in collective worship and activities within the parish.
- Presenting and creating displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas, thoughts and questions.

## Central attributes of an act of worship

The School will endeavour to fulfil the legal requirements of 1988 Education Reform Act in conjunction with School's trust deed, by holding 'an act of collective worship every day'.

During collective worship, whether in the hall, classroom or outside, we will apply the following 'central attributes' of worship:

<b>Gathering</b>	Making special and significant this part of the day through appropriate symbol and ceremony
<b>Engaging</b>	Using the best available techniques to stimulate interest in the content
<b>Responding</b>	Ensuring there is time and opportunity for individual, group reflection and thought, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways

and in addition

<b>Sending</b>	Summarising the worship in a meaningful short message used to create an opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas covered and to conclude the worship
----------------	--

**See APPENDIX 2 for a fuller explanation of the central attributes of worship.**

## School specific organisation

**Monday** Whole school Celebration worship led by Head Teacher

**Tuesday** Class worship led by staff

**Wednesday** Whole school worship led by Worship Team from St Mary's Church

**Thursday** Whole school worship led by class teachers on a rota

**Friday** Whole school worship led by Head Boy and Head Girl/Head Teacher

*The School may vary the organisation Whole School / Class / Key Stage each year or term.*

*Collective worship should be planned systematically, so that there is continuity, variety and clear focus on Christian beliefs and festivals. Worship is led by a variety of people that include School staff, pupils, Governors, representatives from the parish church, members of different faith communities and members of the local community.*

## The centrality of prayer

During the collective worship there will be a time for response and reflection, to ponder on a question, statement or thought. This may also be reflected in a prayer, offered spontaneously by a pupil or adult, read out or recited. This prayer can be displayed and used in class and school reflective areas so that:

- Children understand the nature and purpose of prayer.
- Children understand the part prayer may play in their lives and the life of the school community.
- Prayer contributes to the spiritual development of individuals and the whole school community.

There will also be appropriate opportunities for prayer and other worship activities, including reflection, outside of collective worship.

Each class has a 'reflective area' to engage and promote individual pupils and adults, as well as designated special spaces around the school.

## Management and organisation of resources

The Head Teacher plans worship on a termly basis, with input from pupils, teachers, members of the parish church and reflections / feedback from pupils, staff, governors and parents.

Resources and artefacts are available from St Mary's Church, school and the RE Centre.

All classes have access to prayer books and Bibles, as well as the class set of Bibles in the Resource Room.

A board is displayed in the hall, highlighting the focus and theme of collective acts of worship, music and prayer.

The School's reception area displays reflect the colours of the Anglican Church's year, current ideas and themes, as well as the school's distinctive ethos and Christian values.

## Communication

The half termly school newsletter contains the theme and questions we will be reflecting on so parents are always informed about the worship taking place in school.

Some parents will value this personally and may discuss and reflect on the worship at home with their child.

Whenever one of the school's Christian values is explored in depth, parents also receive a supplementary newsletter about this value. This can include an interactive home challenge.

Information about school worship is also provided to the local parish church so parishioners can be informed about the worship in school.

## Parental involvement

Parents are actively encouraged to participate in collective acts of worship, church services and celebration worships.

## Legal status of collective worship

All maintained schools in England must provide a daily act of collective worship.

In a Church of England School, worship must be in line with the trust deed of the school and will reflect the traditions of the Church of England, i.e. the Anglican tradition.

## Right to withdraw

# Collective Worship Policy for Church of England Schools in the Portsmouth & Winchester Dioceses

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship and sixth-formers can decide for themselves whether or not to attend, without giving a reason for doing so. Schools must comply with this wish and must ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Collective worship guidance is contained in Circular 1/94.

***The school will respect parental and a sixth-formers request and will try to discuss the request to see if an accommodation can be reached and to ensure worship remains inclusive and invitational and open to all members of the school community.***

## Responsibilities

The normal expectation within our church school is for all staff to view daily collective worship as an important part of their own well being and spiritual development as human beings. The school will endeavour to timetable staff so all have an opportunity to attend regularly.

At interview all applicants are informed that the school holds daily acts of collective worship that promote the Christian ethos and values of the school.

The normal expectation will be that teaching staff, including student teachers, will participate in and lead collective worship.

The school welcomes offers from any member of staff who feels confident to lead worship.

The Head Teacher is responsible for co-ordinating the programme of induction and training for staff.

The person responsible for collective worship is the Head Teacher.

## Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on a termly basis.

All who deliver worship will be observed on an annual basis. This process supports the school's self-evaluation, is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body.

Pupils are also involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in weekly class worship, questionnaires and pupil conferences.

All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

## Review

This policy should be reviewed annually, or earlier if changes are made to the SIAMS Evaluation Schedule.

## Appendices

**APPENDIX 1** – The inspection of collective worship by SIAMS (church school inspection)

**APPENDIX 2** – The central attributes of collective worship explained

**APPENDIX 3** – Collective worship observation form

**APPENDIX 4** – A practical guide to evaluating collective worship