

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



CHARSFIELD C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Signature	
Date Approved	May 2025
Review Frequency (Years)	2 years
Date of Next Review	May 2027

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all children and staff of the school coming together and participating in collective worship. We expect everyone to take an active part in the collective worship.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be of a broadly Christian character, we usually base our collective worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

AIMS

The aims of collective worship are to:

- provide an opportunity for the children and staff to worship.
- enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues.
- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs.
- encourage participation and response.
- develop in children a sense of community spirit.
- promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes.

ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each whole school morning collective worship.

We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that collective worship is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We expect children to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and are invited to participate in prayer, reflection, and hymns. At the start of each collective worship, we light candles that act as a focal point for the attention of all children. After the lighting of the candles, we say: **The Lord is here. His Spirit is with us.**

All teaching members of staff conduct collective worship. In addition Rev. Gary leads collective worship in school once a month following our school values.

Our Collective Worship Programme follows our school values of Creativity, Friendship, Compassion, Courage, Responsibility and Perseverance. We focus on one value each half term and repeat this programme annually. The Collective Worship Programme also gives pupils the opportunity to reflect upon the festivals and events of the Christian calendar such as Christmas, Lent and Easter. Themes from the school curriculum or topical events can also form themes for collective worship such as Black History month in October.

Collective worship can reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Every week we celebrate our children's achievements and learning in the form of a Celebration Collective Worship. Parents and family members are invited to take part in these. These offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school.

They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. Parents attending these assemblies help to foster a common spirit and are a practical demonstration of the way home and school work together. We welcome governor's attendance at our collective worship at any time. Parent and church worship are co-ordinated by the Head of School at Charsfield.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Head of School keeps a record of all children who are withdrawn from collective worship.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Head of School and Foundation Governors are responsible for monitoring and reviewing this policy.

CHURCH SERVICES

Collective Worship is held in church monthly and is led by Rev. Gary who follows the school Collective Worship Programme. The children sing hymns/songs for these occasions which are learned during collective worship at school. Parents and families are encouraged to join us for these services, where there are refreshments (for the adults!) served afterwards.

We also have services in the church led by Rev. Gary for Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

At the end of the summer term, we hold a Year 6 Leavers Service in the church, which is led by Rev. Gary (a Leavers Celebration is also held in the school).

Collective Worship Timetable

All collective worship takes place between 9.05am and 9.20am in the school hall or in church. On Friday we hold our Collective Worship at 3pm.

Day	Who leads collective worship	Type of Collective Worship
Monday	Head of School	Celebration
Tuesday	Led by Teacher	Current Value
Wednesday	Led by Teacher	Composer of the Week – and songs/hymns reflecting our current value
Thursday	Led by Head of School/Rev. Gary (either in school or at the church)	Current Value
Friday	Led by children	Share a story, Share a biscuit – our current value plus other Christian Values for Life.

Collective Worship Programme – We use our School Values throughout the year but will use some Collective Worship time to focus on events which reflect our school values. For example: charity events reflect our values of friendship and compassion.

Term	Key value	Important dates/events
Autumn term 1 st half	Perseverance	October is Black History month Harvest collection for local foodbank
Autumn term 2 nd half	Creativity	Children in Need Mid-November Christmas and Advent from December 1 st . Reverse Advent for charity (Lighthouse Women's Refuge)
Spring term 1 st half	Friendship	
Spring term 2 nd half	Compassion	Shrove Tuesday/Lent World Book Day 1 st Thursday in March Comic Relief Mid- March Easter Sunday
Summer term 1 st half	Responsibility	
Summer term 2 nd half	Courage	Leavers Service