ENGLEFIELD CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

1. Introduction
This policy is used as part of our school’s overall strategy and is implemented within the context of our school’s aims, vision and values as a Church of England school. It is consistent with the overall aims of the school as expressed in the Prospectus and Vision Statement and the Christian Foundation of the school as expressed in the Trust Deed, i.e. the principles and practices of the Church of England.

Collective Worship should be ‘a rich source of inspiration for the whole school, and a focus for all that is good and worthy of celebration’ (Bath and Wells Diocese, in accordance with the requirements of the Education Reform Act of 1988 and the Trust Deed of the School). It is an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. It is attended by all pupils; staff and any visitors in school are welcome and encouraged to join in.

2. Aim of Collective Worship
In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that Collective Worship should be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’, we normally base our Collective Worship on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. We conduct our Collective Worship in a manner that is sensitive to the variety of faiths and beliefs of all members of the school community.

Collective Worship should:

- provide the opportunity for children to worship God
- enable children to consider and express spiritual, moral and cultural issues;
- enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- encourage participation and response;
- develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- promote a common ethos, with shared values.
- to reinforce positive attitudes based on a Church of England foundation;
- teach children how to enjoy and get the most out of worship.

Children should see Collective Worship as a time where teachers and pupils may express joy and thankfulness, share concerns and experiences and affirm the beliefs and values of the school community and the Christian Church of which they are a part.

While all acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also recognise that other religions are represented in the school and the wider community and where appropriate will incorporate these into assemblies and curriculum work.

Our whole school acts of worship recognise special events in the Christian calendar. Special services to celebrate Harvest, Christmas and Easter may take place in St Marks Church Englefield. We also use our church to celebrate other special times in the school year particularly our Year 6 Leavers Service at the end of the academic year.
Pupils are also encouraged to become involved in family services at our local churches and in special events such as nativity plays. From time to time our school choir and music groups are invited to perform in services.

3. **How we organise Collective Worship in our school**

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

Collective Worship, whether in the hall or classroom, will follow a recognisable format:

- If the worship is taking place in the hall, children are expected to walk in and out in an attitude of quiet reflection. Music or songs may be played and the children are encouraged to listen thoughtfully while they are waiting for the act of worship to begin.
- Any notices will be clearly separated from the act of worship.
- The worship should last between 15 - 20 minutes, depending on the timetable.
- In longer times of worship, there will usually be songs in an appropriate place which, wherever possible will relate to the theme of the worship.
- There will be a quiet time for reflection or a prayer. Prayers may be taken from Common Worship, other collections of prayers, teachers’ own resources or children's own work. They may also be extemporary. Short poems or quotations may also be used.
- The worship will begin with the lighting of the candle and words to accompany this.
- The worship will have a clear focus and will often involve pupil participation, the theme will be planned for the year. The weekly theme will be clear and a termly value identified which links to the mission statement.
- Elements used in the worship may include music, listening to stories, Bible Readings and other relevant passages, use of movement, mime, religious symbols e.g. candle, drama, artefacts and audio-visual material.
- The worship will close with a prayer.
- With class worship pupils and staff will say Grace prior to lunch and finish the day with a ‘Goodbye’ prayer. In each class there is a place for prayer and reflection.

**Framework for planning acts of Collective Worship:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Person Leading</th>
<th>Main Hall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Headteacher</td>
<td>Whole School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Clergy</td>
<td>Whole School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Worship through Music</td>
<td>Whole School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Class Teacher/Phase leader</td>
<td>KS1/KS2 classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Celebration Assembly (parents invited)</td>
<td>Whole school</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We welcome special visitors and guest speakers to our assemblies, such as visiting clergy from other churches and religions, representatives from the charities which the school particularly supports such as PAC T (Parents & Children Together), Barnardos, Save the Children, British Legion, etc.
We aim to hold a celebration assembly each week to which parents and families are invited to attend. We encourage attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the home/school partnership working to support children’s achievements. There are also opportunities for all our families and the wider community to attend services in the local area.

4. How we Plan, Record and Evaluate Collective Worship

Each week/month/term there is a theme for Collective worship. Staff are made aware of themes at the beginning of the year. Those leading worship that week are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are sufficiently broad to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Occasionally class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur through the curriculum during the week or the wider world.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events. Each person leading worship is asked to plan his or her act of worship in as much detail as they would any learning activity.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. The schools council regularly seeks the views of their classmates and reports these findings to the schools council.

5. Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. Any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from collective worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child. If parents wish for their child to be withdrawn from collective worship this must be discussed with the Headteacher first. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was re-stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Management of policy

School: This policy has been prepared by Governors and the Senior Leadership team. It will be implemented and managed by the Headteacher in liaison with staff.

Governing Body: The Governing Body has delegated the oversight, review and update of this policy to its Foundation Governors Committee

Approval: Approved by the Governing Body on 16th December 2013

Next review due: Spring 2018

Associated policies/documents

Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy
Special Educational Needs Assessment
Equalities Statement
Early Years
Religious Education