



Finstock Church of England Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Christ's command to "*Do everything in love.*" *1Corinthians 16:14* guides us to respect one another and is the foundation for all that we do at Finstock Church of England Primary School.

Our Vision

Excellence through faith, friendship, courage and respect

By

Providing all children with the highest level of academic curriculum and pastoral care, with opportunities for spiritual growth and intellectual enquiry.

The vision for our school and all in our community encompasses our Christian values and are at the heart of everything we do.

At Finstock Church of England Primary School we believe that Collective Worship is an opportunity that allows us to explore our distinctive Christian ethos and that it contributes to the academic and personal development and well-being of our community. It is the heartbeat of our school.

Our Collective Worship aims to:

- * inspire and include - it should engage all learners by creating a reflective approach and provide opportunities to explore deeper thinking
- * nurture our community that is rooted in our Christian vision
- * challenge our learners of all faiths and belief systems to embark on a spiritual journey of reflection
- * provide a safe space where everyone can participate and respond
- * contribute significantly to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils
- * provide an opportunity for all to plan, lead and reflect upon a variety of styles of worship
- * allows all to experience a time of stillness, reflection and the worship of God on their own terms.

Diversity and Respect for other Beliefs:

Finstock and the surrounding area is largely mono-cultural in nature and so particular care is taken to ensure children are prepared to enter a multi-cultural and multi-faith society. Collective Worship is an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faiths. Collective Worship is conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of members of the school. Where the school is privileged enough to be responsible for the education of children from families who worship in a range of religious traditions, the school will strive to initiate dialogue so that it ensures the feelings and beliefs of all families are respected. Collective Worship is regarded as a special time and children are expected to behave in a respectful way.

The positive outcomes of Collective Worship include opportunities for:

- * developing a culture of learning
- * the whole community to celebrate
- * exploring and evaluating individual beliefs, feelings and emotions
- * taking a break from the busyness of life
- * sharing and experiencing differences
- * encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility
- * learning how to respond appropriately
- * developing inner awareness
- * reinforcing positive attitudes
- * respecting individuality and celebrating diversity

Organisation:

Collective Worship is a cherished time that allows children to reflect quietly, offering prayer or worshipping through song. Specific time is set aside for planning acts of Collective Worship and the importance of marking out the act from other assembly activities is recognised. Collective Worship should be planned with thoroughness, care and thought. A long term plan gives an overview of our Collective Worship for the term and this is linked to the school's values and Bible stories. The views of pupils about collective worship are sought and they are encouraged to be involved in the planning, leading and monitoring of this time. Foundation Governors regularly visit the school and attend Collective Worship.

Our weekly timetable for Collective Worship is as follows:

- * Monday - Whole School Assembly led by the Headteacher with a focus on Christian values.
- * Tuesday - Whole School Assembly led by the Vicar who centres his worship around a Bible reading, relating to the liturgical year.
- * Wednesday - Whole School 'Praise' Assembly where Christian values and SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) themes are explored.
- * Thursday - Class Assembly based on a Bible story and linked to Christian values.
- * Friday - Sharing Assembly led by the Headteacher or classes, celebrating the achievements of pupils.

Visitors are welcomed to acts of Collective Worship which are held mainly in school, and at least once a term, the children prepare and contribute to a service in Holy Trinity parish church to which parents and friends of the school are invited. We value contributions made by visitors and members of other churches or faiths are welcomed. The acts of Collective Worship follow themes that are aligned to the school's values and include recognition of the church's year while making space for national or international events.

Elements of Worship:

Music is a much valued element in the curriculum and plays a large part in assemblies and collective worship.

Pupils enter and exit the hall to music, which often relates to the theme of the previous or current theme of the Collective Worship.

A wide range of hymns are taught to reflect the Christian year and seasonal changes.

Music from a variety of cultures will be shared with the pupils throughout the year.

Reflection and prayer are key elements of all Collective Worship.

After the welcome, candles are lit, symbolising God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This signifies the start of our worship and the expectation of a calm and peaceful space.

There is often public or private prayer, whether this is traditional, contemporary or spontaneous. Children are encouraged to reflect upon themes explored during Collective Worship through prayer or moments of stillness.

A time for reflection and contemplation will be included in our worship.

This may be supported by readings from the Bible, artistic imagery or special artefacts.

Grace is said before lunch and a moment of reflection taken or a prayer said at the end of the school day.

Through these elements of worship we seek to engender a feeling of belonging, a sense of pride, an opportunity to give thanks and a time to share moments of awe and wonder within our school community.

The Church:

We have strong links with Holy Trinity Church and the clergy. We welcome the Vicar to our school on a weekly basis and visit the church for annual Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter services and the Leavers' service. There are also additional visits throughout the year in order to further support the curriculum. The Foundation Governors and the Vicar provide valuable links between Church and school.

A legal note:

By law, Collective Worship must:

- * be provided for every child every day;
- * reflect the school's Trust Deed.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

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., who would offer a sympathetic welcome.

It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship and the Headteacher keeps a record of all children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.

Date: June 2020

Review Date: June 2021