



CAMBRIAN
Nurturing Growth - Inspiring Minds



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



OXFORD DIOCESAN
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Policy Updated: November 2025

Future Review: November 2028

Author: Mrs E Brown

Committee: LGC

Version: 1.4

Our Mission Statement

We are a caring, village school which promotes Christian values, where each child receives a high standard of education that is broad, challenging, exciting and encourages creative thinking. We encourage every learner to be the best they can be, to reflect and plan the next steps in their learning journey, demonstrating a respect towards others and contributing to the communities of which they are a part.

Our Vision

Our vision is to nurture unique individuals who are outstanding learners, demonstrating wisdom, responsibility and kindness within their communities. Using the Good Samaritan as our role model, we know that loving others as we are loved is upmost for happy, healthy lives.

Values

Wise - we think wisely and are committed to learning. We relish and retain knowledge and value high standards. We have high expectations, high aspirations and enjoy challenge. Like the wise man who built his house upon the rocks (Matthew 7), we think creatively and use learning to make good decisions. We have firm foundations for our lives.

Responsible – we are responsible for ourselves – our well-being, our behaviour and our learning. We strive to be the best people we can be and the best person for others. We have a responsibility to others inside and out of school and at times need to be patient, tolerant and courageous in demonstrating this. As Noah had to step up when God asked him to, so must we. We are a school family whose strength is in our ability to work together. We know that perseverance and hard work will bring reward and that resilience is about coping with challenges positively.

Kind - we are kind. Through support, nurture and understanding we all flourish. Each one of us is unique – on the outside and inside. We value diversity and respect difference. There are hundreds and thousands, millions of us but God knows everyone and God knows me!

Curriculum Intent

Our curriculum is designed around our Christian values. Each term, we focus on 2 values across the school and develop a working understanding of them through our choice of texts and foundation subject learning, embedding reading and maths at the core. Our approach is to deliver learning which excites and inspires, provides opportunity for recap and challenge, raises questions for debate, develops learners' confidence and enables independent learning to flourish. High standards, collaboration and valuing individuals' well-being is at the heart of this process. We believe that how we teach is as important as what we teach and that enrichment experiences are an entitlement. We want our curriculum to enable our children to be wise, responsible and kind in line with our school core values.

Definition

Collective worship is rooted in our Christian vision: "Small school, big hearts. Wise, responsible and kind like the Good Samaritan." Through worship, children and adults within our school community are nurtured to become wise, responsible and kind individuals, inspired by the example of the Good Samaritan and the call to love others as we would wish to be loved. Worship enables our vision to be explored, understood, and lived out in the daily life of the school.

Worship is a central focus for us as a Church of England school. It provides a means by which Christian values, stories and principles may be reflected on and affirmed. Children will also encounter values, principles and stories from other major faiths.

Collective worship allows the school community to experience the mystery and wonder of life and the world, while nurturing spiritual and moral values. It provides opportunities for both children and adults to experience wonder, awe and mystery, and to respond through celebration, reverence, reflection, fellowship, thanksgiving and praise.

For children whose families belong to different faith communities, it offers the opportunity to worship in their own way.

Aims

To encourage a sense of awe and wonder and foster a respect for the world, its peoples, and their faiths.

To develop a sense of the values on which we build good, strong and happy lives.

To create an atmosphere in which those who wish to can pray, reflect or meditate and worship God.

To encourage many forms of communication and expression including music, singing, prayer, rituals, story, poems, drama, dance, symbol, etc.

To enable children to learn from Christianity and other faiths in a way that promotes their spiritual, moral, cultural and cognitive development and prepares them for opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

To provide opportunities for children and adults to reflect, grow spiritually and flourish as individuals and as members of our school community.

Legal Requirements

The Education Reform Act 1988 requires *"The arrangements for the collective act of worship be made by the Governors after consultation with the Headteacher. The act specifies "All pupils in attendance shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship" unless parents request that they are excused. We seek to provide an assembly each day which is central to the life of the school, reflects our school's trust deeds and includes an "Act of collective worship".*

The 1988 Act defines its aims as: **Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.**

We wish to encourage all our children to take part in collective worship taking account of individual integrity. The school respects the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship, although it is hoped that any parent considering this option will discuss the matter with the Headteacher first. Any concerns about collective worship should be addressed to the Headteacher in the first instance or governors if necessary.

The school has pupils from a variety of religious traditions and staff are sensitive to the needs of children from different faiths.

Organisation and Delivery:

1. Collective worship includes time for:

- Thinking
- Sharing
- Listening
- Stillness and silence
- Reflecting on a chosen "Value"

2. Collective Worship is led by the Headteacher, teachers, local clergy and members of the local community.
3. Pupils are involved in preparing and delivering worship and Year 6 leaders organise candle lighting, singing and prayers.
4. Christian festivals and assemblies often take place in St Mary's Church.
5. Collective prayers are said up to 3 times a day – in worship, as grace in thanks for our mid-day meal and at the end of the day. Children and staff are invited to join in prayer if they so wish.
6. Termly "Values" are explored via our worships to extend the understanding of Christian beliefs. Wherever possible the value of the term is supported by Bible readings / stories. We aim to develop an understanding of the stories in the Old and New Testament as well as developing a relationship with Jesus through our collective worship. Our two-year Curriculum plan links our termly focus values with our worships. This means children are learning about the same values through their curriculum as they are reflecting on in worship and practicing in their daily lives.
7. Collective worship in EYFS is adapted to be age and developmentally appropriate, using stories, songs, prayer, reflection and opportunities for children to wonder and respond. EYFS children are supported to explore the school's Christian vision and values in ways that are meaningful and accessible to them.
8. Our Year 6 children have Bibles given to them by the Parochial Church Council at the beginning of each year. These are used to support worship, giving older children an opportunity to take part in leading parts of worships.

9. Local ministers come into school regularly to lead whole school worships, class worships and prayer circles. This often includes initiatives such as prayer walks, and meditation.
10. Open the Book Assemblies are held weekly and are led by members of the Christian community.

Weekly worships -

Monday - Headteacher worship opens the week, exploring our Christian vision and the term's values, including materials from No Outsiders, with a focus on British Values and diversity. Connections are also made to the liturgical year, as well as local, national, and international events.

Tuesday - We learn about Rights Respecting Schools and make meaningful links to our values.

Wednesday – We sing together, nurturing a sense of spiritual connection, unity and shared joy.

Thursday – Open the Book – Members of the church community bring Bible storytelling to life.

Friday – Community celebration worship, recognising achievement and reflecting on how our vision and values have been lived out during the week

Links with RE teaching and learning

We believe that Collective Worship is strengthened by high quality RE teaching. We use Understanding Christianity, the Oxfordshire Syllabus and a Big Question approach to teaching RE. This can be delivered across a term in weekly lessons or as part of a focus RE day which gives the children chance to explore a question in depth, coming to their own opinions at the end. We encourage reflective and analytical thinking throughout and encourage children to peruse ideas carefully and raise their own questions – realising that some questions might not have answers

Resources and In-Service Training

Staff resources are stored in the PPA room and the hall. Staff members take part in in-service training when appropriate courses are available; the school works closely with the advisory team at the Diocese of Oxford.

Monitoring

It is the duty of the Headteacher to ensure this policy is delivered. This role is supported by the governors who are responsible for RE and collective worship and are Foundation Governors. The school evaluates worship through a process involving pupils, staff and governors, considering its impact on spiritual development and flourishing and how effectively it enables our Christian vision to be understood and lived out. This feedback informs our priorities for further development. Foundation governors meet regularly with the Collective worship / RE co-ordinator to review our SIAMS, SEF and action plan developments.

Appendix

Year A	Values
Term 1 and 2	Respect and Courage
Term 3 and 4	Hope and Belief
Term 5 and 6	Friendship and Responsibility

Year B	Values
Term 1 and 2	Peace and Unity
Term 3 and 4	Equality and Diversity
Term 5 and 6	Kindness and Forgiveness

- The values of each term link with our curriculum planning across the whole school.
- The core values of our school are: Wisdom, Kindness, Responsibility. These permeate all our work.