




## Collective Worship Policy

Governing Board with Responsibility	Teaching and Learning	
Reviewed/Revised	February 2020	
Date of Next Review	February 2022	
Agreed by Governors	25.02.2020	
Additional Notes	This policy will be reviewed every 2 years or before if requested by either the school or the Governing Board.	

### Introduction

Princess Frederica CEVA Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School and as such, Collective Worship forms a central part in the life of the school, helping to uphold the religious character and Christian distinctiveness which are so intrinsic to everything we hold dear. It is a time in the day when we are able to explicitly explore our Christian faith and as such, it plays a major part in creating the special ethos and identity which form the backbone of Princess Frederica; inspiring and impacting the lives of children, staff, governors and parents and enabling their spiritual growth.

The calm, peaceful, reflective, special atmosphere of Collective Worship provides members of the school community with opportunities to:

- praise and reach out to God
- experience stillness and quiet
- respond to Christian language and symbolism
- experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation
- acknowledge the wider world and raise pupils' curiosity
- be touched by the awe and mystery of the world

- appreciate that we are the 'stewards' of God's world
- understand justice and responsibility
- ask fundamental questions about the purpose of being and about moral and ethical stances
- begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship and to build a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future
- learn and celebrate values we hold to be important

Collective Worship is attended by all pupils and classroom staff and it is an important part of our school's ethos that we all meet together in assemblies. Any visitors in school are very welcome to join in Acts of Collective Worship.

### **Aim of collective worship**

Our aim at Princess Frederica CEVA Primary School is to ensure that worship provides opportunities for the whole school community to:-

- celebrate our Christian faith through collective worship;
- provide an opportunity for children and staff to worship God together, through prayer, music, singing and reflection;
- provide experience of reflection and prayer as spiritual resources;
- develop children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding;
- enable children to explore their own beliefs and better understand the views and beliefs of others;
- promote the Christian values of the whole school community; establishing a common ethos and vision, which are delivered and reinforced through six key values;
- offer children, staff and those involved in the life of the school an opportunity to draw closer to God through Jesus Christ, and in doing so build community spirit in and beyond the school;

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- teach children how to worship, providing them with the language of worship and experience of a wide variety of forms of worship;
- celebrate gifts, talents, achievements and significant occasions, including festivals.

All Collective Worship at Princess Frederica is Christian and broadly reflects the Anglican traditions and practice. We strive to ensure that it is of the highest quality and that it has a clear impact on all aspects of school life, with the messages which are delivered being reinforced and lived out throughout the school building and beyond.

### **The contribution of Collective Worship to the life of the school**

As well as explicitly providing the opportunity for the school to worship together, Collective Worship contributes to a wide range of different aspects in the life of the school.

- Anglican tradition – Daily Collective Worship includes distinctively Anglican features (such as the opening and closing responses and the use of Anglican prayers and songs) and this reflects local practice. Services are regularly held in church to mark special Christian festivals (e.g. Harvest, Christmas, , Easter, Pentecost) as well as special times in the life of the school (Beginning of term, End of term) and special days in the year. Collective Worship has a strong focus on Jesus Christ and God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the central role that this has to Christian teaching.
- Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Education (SMSC) including British Values – Collective Worship provides the opportunity for children to be spiritual every day. Carefully selected themes inspire a high level of spiritual and moral reflection and seek to promote thoughts in children and staff for their own spiritual journey.
- PSHE and P4C links are made in Collective Worship with common PSHE themes and with topical issues (Anti-bullying, E-safety). This promotes the Christian teaching behind the issue and encouragement that faith can support the messages delivered in PSHE.
- School Values- As part of Collective Worship during the year opportunities will also be given to link to the school Christian values. This is to ensure that all children have a deep and developed understanding of what these mean and how they should influence their daily life, both in and out of school.

## **Inclusion**

Worship is planned and led so that all pupils have equal opportunity to take part and to benefit from the experience. We seek to be an inclusive community and we aim to ensure that our Collective Worship is sensitive so that all pupils (whatever their belief system) feel that they can participate and contribute in an act as well as being inspired. When parents/carers choose to send their child to Princess Frederica we expect that they understand that being part of the school community means all children will take part in whole school routines (which especially includes Collective Worship). Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective. However, Princess Frederica is a Church of England Voluntary Aided primary school where Christian values and principles underpin the whole curriculum. In order to preserve the distinctiveness of this church school community, we encourage everyone to be involved in Religious Education and Collective Worship. Parents who have concerns about this should discuss them with the Head Teacher before their child is admitted to the school. The school does not provide suitable supervision for pupils withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship and parents/carers should provide appropriate alternative activities for their child.

## **Organisation/Leadership and weekly pattern of Collective Worship Collective**

Collective worship occurs during assemblies or in class and it is an effective way for bringing the whole school community together. The range of Collective Worship styles includes; In-class Act of Worship, Whole School worship based on a half termly theme, Singing Worship, Celebration Worship where children's achievements are recognised and celebrated together, and class assemblies led by classes which parents are encouraged to attend. It is led by a range of leaders including members of staff, Governors, the parish priests and visitors from neighbouring parishes. A wide range of visitors from different Christian and multi faith traditions lead the acts of worship. This is particularly powerful because it provides children with a rich and wide range of experience of worship. Any new visitors are carefully briefed and invited to attend an act of worship led by a member of staff or an experienced visitor to ensure they are well inducted to the expectations for worship and therefore a high quality of worship can always be maintained. Members of the Headship Team monitor the quality of worship to ensure that a consistently high standard is always maintained.

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## **Content**

Each half term there is a theme for Collective Worship developed in collaboration with our Vicars from the two link parishes. Those leading worship each week (including visitors) relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad so as to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that worship leaders may feel that they need to respond to local or national events. A number of different styles/ techniques are used during Collective Worship. These may include use of

- Film clips
- Stories • Drama/ Role play
- Artefacts • Pictures/ images 5
- Music/songs
- Words/ key questions
- Bible stories (including OT and NT)
- Audience involvement
- Opportunities for personal reflection

When marking special days/ celebrations Collective Worship is held in church as part of a service. Some services are marked with a Eucharist service. As in all aspects of school life, high expectations of behaviour are held for all children throughout worship. It is important that pace is maintained through each act of worship so that children remain engaged and interested. Techniques such as use of talk partners and no hands up/lolly stick questions for different year groups help to ensure that all children are engaged and actively participating in the worship.

## **Prayer and Reflection points**

There is a prayer and reflection point in the communal corridor which also reflects the current theme for Collective Worship. There are prayer and reflection areas in each classroom. There are prayer and praise boxes in all classrooms. These displays have prompts for the children to either think about or something for them to do. This is to encourage children to continue reflecting on the Collective Worship theme throughout the day and to show them how it can relate to different areas of their lives.

## **Review**

Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of the Headteacher, the LDBS appointed governor and the foundation governors from St Mark's and St Martin's churches. The LDBS governor, as the link governor, will liaise with the Headteacher every term and report to the governing body. Other contributors to the monitoring process include pupil feedback, LDBS advisors and the SIAMS report.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Guidelines for visitors for Collective Worship.**

Collective worship is an important vehicle for pupils to explore and share beliefs, consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence, the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives, think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community. To create a sense of occasion for worship and to enhance the atmosphere and demonstrate the value which is placed upon it, the school has established a number of elements to ensure that Acts of Collective Worship are distinct and different to the normal curriculum:

- The school community gathers in the hall.
- Pupils enter singing.
- A candle will be lit to signify that this time is set apart as a special time. A comment about the candle as it is being lit sets the scene.
- There will also be a cross prominently displayed.
- The specific elements that should be incorporated into an Act of Collective Worship are:
  - Reflection or stillness so that the pupils can think about the content of the worship and reflect on its meaning for themselves.
  - Prayer
- The end of the Act of Collective Worship is closed with our school's prayer.
- Administration items may take place preceding or following an Act of Collective Worship, but there must be a clear beginning and end to the Act itself, so that the two things are separate.
- Pupils sing as appropriate music is played.

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## **Appendix 2**

### **School Prayer**

Father God,

We thank you for loving and making each one of us

Help us to respect and care for each other and our environment

Help us to work hard and play fairly,

That our school may be a place of joy, peace and hope

And a light in this community

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ

Amen

**The Lord's Prayer (modern version)**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

Amen