

Collective Worship Policy



**Providing the rich soil that enables
our children to develop deep roots and flourish.**

Chair of Governor: Dr Holmes

Approved by: Standards Committee

Approved on: Summer Term One 2021

Review Date: Summer Term One 2023

Other relevant policies: Safeguarding Policy, SEND, RE, SMSC

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Diocesan Collective Worship Guidance Document.

AMBERLEY PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Rationale

The Trust Deed and school ethos statement inform the policy and practice of collective worship in Amberley Parochial School. Worship is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian foundation values and ethos of the school.

Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and will reflect the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. This will include belief in God the source of all being and life, belief in Jesus who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection and belief in the Holy Spirit who makes the presence of Jesus known in the world.

As a church school we, we use the Parable of the Sower as a foundation for our vision. We aim to provide the rich soil that all members of the school community need in order to develop deep roots and flourish. We have identified core Christian Values that underpin our work as a school community and which inform our vision, aims and ethos. The values that relate particularly to this policy are respect, service, trust and truthfulness.

Aims and Guiding Principles

Collective Worship in our school is invitational, inspirational and inclusive.

At Amberley we aim that collective worship will:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults' in their spiritual growth
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Provide an opportunity to experience the Eucharist through an agreed service or experience (agreed with the local incumbent and the Diocese of Gloucester)
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local

church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.

- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring Collective Worship

- At Amberley, worship is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. Pupils and staff in our school will come from different backgrounds of faith and no faith, and will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey. Opportunity is given to think, ask questions and reflect. Care is taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching. Pupils are involved in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship in order to offer their own meaningful contributions.
- Collective worship at Amberley provides the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity.
- Collective worship at Amberley is designed to be formational, transformational and inspirational, leading pupils to become courageous advocates of causes and encouraging them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils which takes account of their age and aptitude (Education Reform Act 1988). Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements will be made to accommodate these children. Since this is a church school however, worship is central to its life and work and is regarded as a very important part of children's education.

Organisation of Collective Worship at Amberley Parochial School

Collective Worship takes place for the whole school each day.

Day	Location	Led By	Time
Monday	Church	Rev Jon	9.00 – 9.20am
Tuesday	School hall	Headteacher or Worship Team	2.55 – 3.15pm
Wednesday	Class Worship	Class teachers and children	2.55 – 3.15pm
Thursday	School Hall	Open the Book/ Spirituality	2.55 – 3.15pm
Friday – Celebration Assembly	School hall	Headteacher/teachers	2.45 – 3.10pm

With the exception of Open the Book, the worship overview is planned by the Headteacher, RE lead or the worship team according to themes outlined in the Values for Life materials provided by the diocese. These themes for each half term are followed by Rev Jon and school staff.

VALUES FOR LIFE THEMES

Autumn 2021	Perseverance
	Service
Spring 2022	Trust
	Forgiveness
Summer 2022	Justice
	Courage
Autumn 2022	Friendship
	Truthfulness
Spring 2023	Thankfulness
	Compassion
Summer 2023	Generosity
	Reverence and Respect
Autumn 2023	Perseverance
	Service
Spring 2024	Trust
	Forgiveness
Summer 2024	Justice
	Courage

The Rector, Church readers and Church minister will also deliver collective worship based on the Church year.

Reference is regularly made to the Bible during Collective Worship as a source book of inspiration and guidance and the Church of England's commitment to Christianity throughout the world and dialogue with other faiths.

Evaluation and Monitoring of Collective Worship

The school will periodically evaluate the impact of collective worship through:

- Governor observations of CW
- Discussions with School Forum
- Informal discussions with pupils
- Review of the CW policy and its effectiveness

The Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

In Amberley Parochial, there are children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view.

Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this is made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)