



## FAIRFORD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Isaiah 49:16 'I have written your name on the palms of my hands'.

Actively learning together in a safe, happy environment shaped by the certainty that each individual is loved and known by God.

# Fairford C of E Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed by CVC Committee: Jan 2024

Date of next review: Jan 2026

## **Vision and Values**

**Our school vision is: *Isaiah 49:16 "I have written your name on the palms of my hands"*.**  
Actively learning together in a safe, happy environment shaped by the certainty that each individual is known and loved by God.

**At Fairford Primary School we have chosen those values that best reflect our thoughts as a school and community**

***Perseverance***

***Friendship***

***Respect***

***Forgiveness***

***Trust***

***Thankfulness***

**FAIRFORD C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**COLELCTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

1. The Collective Worship Policy at Fairford C of E Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements and has taken account of the guidelines offered by the Local Authority through Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

**Definition of Collective Worship**

2. Collective worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school, meet in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences, and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

**Aims of Collective Worship**

**For the school:**

3. Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Fairford C of E Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- Share common aims and values
- Celebrate achievement and special times
- Explore together the world in which we live
- Explore Spirituality
- Develop a community spirit

**For the Pupils:**

4. We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- Worship that which is considered worthy
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Explore their own beliefs
- Develop their own spirituality
- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Participate and respond
- Reflect on what it means to be human
- Develop Climate Justice

**Our approach to worship**

5. All children take part in an act of worship each day. This will include time for:

- Thinking
- Sharing
- Listening
- Stillness and silence
- A prayer
- Singing

It may also include:

- A focus, e.g. a lighted candle, an artefact, pictures or a natural object
- A story, poem or Bible passage
- A piece of music
- A hymn or song
- Accounts of events or personal experiences
- Posters, pictures, etc
- Manmade objects

6. Children, staff, governors and parents are all welcome to our services, which are held in St Mary's Church in Fairford, and services and Collective Worship held in school.

7. Outside agencies, including charity representatives and members of other churches and faiths, are invited, where appropriate, to share their experiences with the children. Children's sensitivity to the needs of others is highlighted in practical terms by a variety of fundraising activities, such as Dr Barnardo's, Children in Need, and Cancer Research.

8. As a Church of England school, Christian values are firmly rooted into our ethos and teaching and is reflected in the cycle of six values, upon which our daily acts of worship are based.

9. We recognise the rights of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of worship and religious education.

### **The Act of Collective Worship**

10. A variety of teaching and learning styles, and active and interactive methods, are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

11. The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

12. If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship, then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made preceding the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made.

Monday Collective Worship is led by children.

### **Withdrawal**

13. Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

### **Range of Assembly Themes**

14. A list of values and when they are to be shared, based on an annual cycle, is updated annually.

### **Differentiation**

15. It is important that all acts of worship allow some time for children to reflect at their own level and that all children derive some benefit from Collective Worship, whatever their academic ability. All children should be given the opportunity to contribute to prayers and readings and to participate generally in assemblies and church services on a regular basis.

### **Equal Opportunities**

16. Through worship, we will affirm the equality of each individual in the sight of God, whatever the child's gender or ethnic origins.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

17. We evaluate the effectiveness of worship and record this. Collective Worship will be evaluated by those who lead worship and those who observe worship each week.

18. Staff use several strategies for assessing individual outcomes of Collective Worship. They include:

- Observation of levels of interest shown during worship
- Classroom feedback from pupils
- Parents comments
- Observations of children's behaviour towards each other around the school

19. The Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) policy is reviewed and refreshed each year and shows examples of the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development throughout the school.

### **Timetable**

20. Coming together at given times for Collective Worship is an important feature of our school life.

Monday 08:50	Whole school (with the Headteacher and Vicar in attendance). The theme under the values for the term is introduced by the children. A key story is read; visual stimuli or drama is also used, and a hymn or song is used to reinforce the value. Parents of the children who are leading worship are invited to attend.
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Tuesday 08:50	Whole school – singing and celebration
Wednesday 08:50	Whole school. This worship brings focus to the ongoing theme within school values. It is also an opportunity, through teaching the Equality Act 2010, to share school values.
Thursday 09:00	Open the Book. Whole school involvement (not always synchronised with the value).
Friday 08:50	Shining Stars – The whole school is involved in sharing pupils work and achievements, with school values at the core of the celebration, plus any other outside school or sporting achievement. Parents are invited to see their child’s work.

### **The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum**

21. Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, at Fairford C of E Primary School, Collective Worship will, at times, feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

22. The provision of opportunities for pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy, which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources, and provide pupils with the opportunity to ‘respond’ at their own level.

### **The Management of Collective Worship**

23. The Worship Co-ordinator, Headteacher, Deputy Head, Heads of Key Stages and governors meet several times each year and form the Christian Vision Committee. The role of the team will be to plan, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship and other occasions during the year, and to work together to build relationships between the church and school.

### **The Organisation of Collective Worship**

24. Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall, one of the multi-purpose rooms, or the classroom. Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

### **Leadership**

25. Every member of the teaching staff, children, and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

### **Planning Acts of Collective Worship**

26. The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

27. The values and associated themes, special occasions and events are planned, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Recording these will ensure that there is continuity and progression and will enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.

### **Resources**

28. Materials which specifically support the programme of worship themes, and which give guidance on worship, are accessible to all staff. Individual staff members retain a variety of resources within their own classroom.

### **List of Resources**

29. The Diocesan Resources Centre is able to provide a wide range of resources which can be collected by schools.