

**CUDDINGTON AND DINTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**



Collective Worship Policy

Date adopted by Governing Body
Date for Review:

January 2022
January 2025

Our Vision

‘**Let your light shine**’ Matthew 5:16 is central to all that we do as a Christian school community. We work together to nurture the well-being, learning and development of everyone, empowering all to shine as individuals through clearly understood values and behaviour, founded in the Christian faith.

Our Values

- To show **respect** for each other
- To demonstrate the Christian ethos of **love**
- To be **resilient**, confident and determined to do the best we can in all things
- To demonstrate **trust** in our dealings with others
- To show **integrity** and honesty in all our actions
- To have **belief** that we can all achieve success and excellence that contributes to our Christian community

Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life of Cuddington and Dinton C of E School. Worship offers the pupils and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian vision and ethos. It is an expression of our vision and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school. We warmly invite all members of our school community to join our worship.

Our collective worship provides pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- Celebrate -
Christian seasons and festivals,
School values associated with our vision,
Pupils’ and adults’ achievements,
- experience prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer;
- create a reflective approach to life including the exploration of deep questions
- develop as a community centred on our clear and distinctive Christian vision
- experience a variety of styles of worship;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship;
- feel safe and affirmed;
- worship God on their own terms.

Worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth;
- enable participants to consider moral questions in a Christian context;
- enhance social understanding and encourage responses to issues through courageous advocacy;
- give participants a chance to reflect on the place and importance of faith in the lives of people today;
- encourage participants to explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage⁶;
- reflect the teachings of Jesus and a trinitarian theology.

The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings, in the school hall, in classrooms and on occasions outside. On occasions worship takes place in St Nicholas Church, Cuddington and St Peter and Paul, Dinton. We follow the seasons of the Church year and within these significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost; other days may also be celebrated occasionally. Other important days in the calendar such as Remembrance and the Leavers' Service also feature in collective worship.

Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote participants' thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

Leading worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church Community. Pupils are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to contribute to collective worship from time to time and are given guidance from our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme and the needs of the pupils. The themes of worship are chosen to both express and explore our vision and the way in which this vision is experienced in school through the associated values (appendix 1). Members from the church community follow 'Open the Book' as the basis for their Collective worship at the school. Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a wide variety of activities alongside more traditional elements of worship such as prayer, song, lighting a candle, reading the Bible, reflection and meditation.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship. Cuddington and Dinton use a variety of prayers – the school prayer (see appendix 2), the Lords prayer (appendix 3) and each week a class writes a prayer based on the Collective worship theme (appendix 1)

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection. and our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

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, parents who may wish to exercise this right should make an appointment to speak with the headteacher.

Appendices

1) School Collective worship themes

Autumn 1 Love	Autumn 2 Integrity	Spring 1 Trust	Spring 2 Resilience	Summer 1 Belief	Summer 2 Respect
Me and my relationships	Valuing difference	Keeping safe	Rights and responsibilities	Being my best	Growing up
Harvest	Advent & Christmas	Lent	Easter	Pentecost	
New Beginnings	11th November	New Year New Start	Creation stories	What does belief mean to me?	How have we changed?
What is a family?	Why do we fall out?	Taking responsibility	The world around us	What makes me special?	How can we help others?
Why are families important?	Anti-Bullying Week Children in Need	Keeping safe	UN children rights (and responsibilities)	Special people in the bible- Jesus	People who have coped with huge changes in their lives
Different is good!	Conflict resolution	Bouncing Back	Making a difference in the world- small things matter	Queen's Jubilee- what does it mean to us?	Coping with change in our lives
Harvest	What makes a good friend?	Determination & Persistence			Moving on
Finding your talent	Advent	Who can you trust?			
How do we cope with our feelings?		Change is good!			

2) School Prayer

This is our school

Let Peace dwell here

Let all the rooms be filled with contentment

Let Love abide here, Love of Life, Love of Mankind and Love of God,

Let us remember as many hands build a home, so many hearts build a school.

Amen

3) Lord's Prayer

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 for ever.

Amen.