

Spalding Parish Church of England Day School

*At the heart of our diverse community, striving for excellence,
enabling all to achieve their highest potential.*



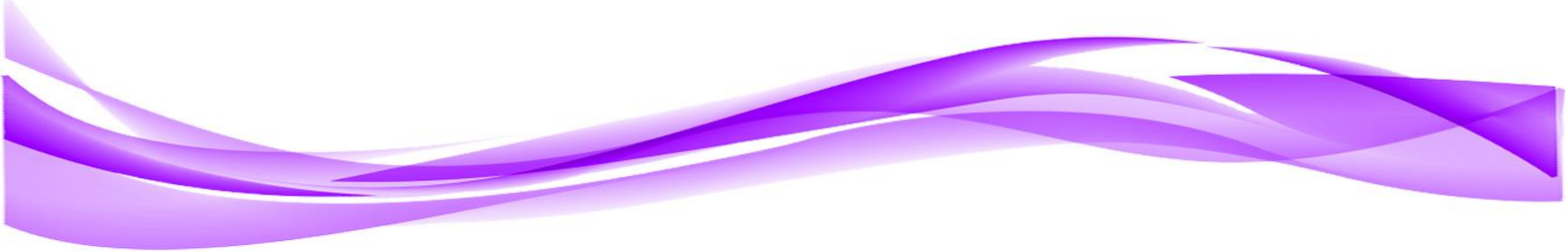
Collective Worship Policy

Date of Policy: October 2021

Adopted by Local Council: October 2021

Signed by Chair of Governors: October 2021

Revised Policy: April '20		



Spalding Parish Church of England Day School Collective Worship Policy

1) Vision and Context

*At the heart of our diverse community, striving for excellence,
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We aim to be an outstanding inclusive church school embodying the love and care of God the Father for everyone, striving to help all in our school prosper and fulfil their unique potential in the fullness of Christ, and co-operating with the Holy Spirit for the flourishing of every person through the principles of wisdom, hope, community and dignity.

'Start by doing what's necessary, then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.'

St Francis of Assisi

As a caring Christian community built on Compassion, Trust, Friendship and Hope our work and vision is based on the core values stated above alongside the additional values of Courage, Perseverance, Humility, Forgiveness, Wisdom and Thankfulness. These values clearly state our firm belief in God overarched by the values of Respect and Responsibility and our school ethos, all of which is encapsulated in the school's Mission Statement.

Our Christian values-based school celebrates curiosity and creativity through an inspiring, broad and engaging curriculum, where learning is at the heart of all we do. Our children learn to become resilient and self-assured in a safe, inclusive and nurturing community. Everyone is challenged and encouraged to thrive and achieve as individuals, preparing them for their role as caring and active citizens in modern Britain.

We recognise that children are created in the image of God but also value their individuality as they explore their own God given talents and are treated with respect and dignity at all times. We are committed to giving all of our children every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. We do this by taking account of pupils' varied life experiences and needs. We believe that our broad, balanced and progressive curriculum, underpinned by British and Christian values, plays a major part in delivering a good quality of education which permeates through every element of school life. The achievements, attitudes and well-being of all our children matter and we have high expectations for everyone in the school community.

Value of Collective Worship

As a Church of England school, Collective Worship is central to the life of the school, a highly valued part of the school day in which the whole school community comes together in a 'time to breathe', a time to show reverence to God. Just as breathing is vitally important to life itself, we believe Collective Worship is as important to us as it gives all of us opportunities to offer and interact with worship to God in a diverse and age-appropriate way. Our Collective Worship aims to be inclusive, invitational and inspiring to all.

2) Collective Worship Intent













The aims and principles of Collective Worship are:

1. To provide an opportunity for pupils and staff to worship God together promoting community cohesion;
2. To enable children to foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness;
3. To contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child and adult;
4. To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;

5. To enable the school community to explore and celebrate difference and diversity within the Christian faith, the local community and the wider world whilst appreciating that Christians worship in diverse ways, for example using music, story, prayer, silence and reflection.
6. To allow children and adults to learn about and reflect upon the teachings of Jesus Christ using Biblical texts;
7. To develop an understanding of the Christian belief in the Holy Trinity;
8. To encourage children to learn about and celebrate special times in the Christian Liturgical calendar;
9. To enable pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's society;
10. To help children to discover and understand their place in the world as 'agents of change'.
11. To enable pupils to take ownership of the planning, leading and evaluating of Collective Worship embracing times of stillness and reflection as well as times of vocal celebration and elation;
12. To allow children the opportunity to have a personal two-way conversation with God through prayer,

Essentially Collective Worship at SPCEDS reflects our Christian vision, values and ethos and is grounded in distinctively Christian teaching. It is well organised, resourced, planned and delivered through a variety of media including music and hymns, words and scriptures, ritual, movement and drama, prayer, stillness and reflection. Acts of Worship are mainly Christian in character and nature and through this, pupils should come to a greater understanding of the principles, values and characteristics displayed by Jesus Christ throughout His life, in His ministry, in His teaching and by His own example as written in Biblical texts.

At SPCEDS Collective Worship will include the specific Christian Values of:

-  Creation and Creativity
-  Friendship & Fellowship
-  Perseverance
-  Forgiveness
-  Trust
-  Thankfulness
-  Respect and Reverence
-  Peace and care for each other, for our community and beyond
-  Courage
-  Compassion
-  Hope
-  Humility

These principles and values are embodied in the New Testament that Jesus gave us:

“... Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples.”

John 13:34-35

Religious Education, Assembly and Collective Worship

We feel it is important that the relationship between RE, Assembly and Collective Worship is understood by teachers, pupil and parents. They are each distinctive activities which all contribute to a broad and balanced curriculum, they should endorse one another, and are all intentional learning activities within the curriculum and therefore important in the planning process.

When planning these activities, teachers take a range of learning styles into account to create opportunities that are accessible by all children.

Religious Education is about enabling pupils to be religiously literate and able to hold balanced and informed conversations about religion and belief. RE develops pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity as well as other principal religions and world views. Themes that are introduced in an Act of Worship may be further developed in RE lessons or in other areas of the curriculum.

School Assembly is often a time for notices, celebrations of pupils' work or when visitors come to school to give a talk or make a presentation. The atmosphere and structure are different. A Collective Worship may begin with an Assembly but the transition from Assembly to Collective Worship must be made obvious. An assembly does not have to include an Act of worship nor does an Act of Worship have to take place in an assembly.





Collective Worship can take place within an assembly and can be seen as one element or dimension. However, an Act of Worship is far more than just a coming together of the school; it should fulfil the definition of worship as described in this policy.

3) Collective Worship

At Spalding Parish Church of England Day School, we understand worship to be a special act whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship in our school involves all members of the school coming together to take an active part in worship. Children regularly lead Acts of Worship and we welcome visitors to lead worship too. The school choir also take an active role in worship, both in Acts of Worship in school and in church.

Being a Church of England school, our Acts of Worship are based on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

Our Collective Worship offers pupils and staff opportunities to:


-  Explore and share beliefs;
-  Consider the importance of prayer, reflection and silence to consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives;
-  Think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community;
-  Appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them.

Collective Worship will offer the opportunity to reaffirm, interpret and put into practice the values of the school.

Organisation of Collective Worship

A daily act of Collective Worship is held in our school. During the week it is led by a mixture of staff, clergy and children.

Collective Worship is conducted in a dignified and respectful manner. Pupils and adults know that it is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect all to behave appropriately. We ask them to be thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings, participating in hymns, activities and in prayer. Generally Collective Worship at SPCEDS follows this structure:

-  The Collective Worship leader creates a welcoming and inviting atmosphere by playing appropriately themed or quiet reflective music as the children enter the school hall.

- 🕯️ UKS2 pupils make a record of each Collective Worship, including children's responses.
- 🕯️ The CW leader verbally welcomes the children and adults to Collective Worship.
- 🕯️ A candle on the 'altar table' is lit to signify that this is a special time.
- 🕯️ The 'altar table' is covered with a cloth which is the correct colour for the Church liturgical calendar.
- 🕯️ Each Collective Worship includes a piece of scripture, linked to the term's Christian value and/or theme, with the book and verse shared as part of the worship.
- 🕯️ The leader (or person delivering the talk) speaks to the school community using a variety of genre. These may include storytelling, roleplay, PowerPoint presentations, drama, use of props and/or music. The talk should be linked to the scripture and Christian value and/or theme however on occasions it is recognised that worship leaders may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.
- 🕯️ The leader encourages the children to reflect upon the Collective Worship. Reflection questions are used to prompt the children to think about the key thoughts or message.
- 🕯️ The leader gives the children and adults the opportunity to pray by inviting them to prepare for prayer using the words 'Let us pray'. The children are encouraged to sit comfortably but respectfully whilst praying. They are not told to 'Put your hands together and close your eyes.'
- 🕯️ A variety of prayers are used: The School Prayer, the Lord's Prayer or a planned prayer linked specifically to the spoken word. All are encouraged to join in or to say Amen at the end to make it their prayer.
- 🕯️ Choral Worship takes place during every Collective Worship.
- 🕯️ The candle is extinguished by the leader at the end of Collective Worship.
- 🕯️ The leader sends the children out with a thought or question to enable them to continue their thinking as they walk back to their classrooms.
- 🕯️ Music is played to encourage the children to leave the space in a quiet reflective way.

The themes of our acts of Collective Worship are taken from the traditions and values of the Christian faith, often reflecting the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We encourage pupils to learn about and appreciate the place of other world religions, promoting awareness, understanding and respect. The themes for Collective Worship reflect and build on the key values of our school community, wider Christian community and topics taught.

Collective Worship is led by a range of members of staff, unless they object on religious grounds. The themes are planned by the Collective Worship team in conjunction with the clergy of St. Mary and St. Nicolas church. Links are often made to the PSHCE curriculum, encouraging children's social, moral education.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

We use acts of Collective Worship, Religious Education, our Christian Values, the 2Rs ethos, British Values and PSHCE across the school to enhance our SMSC development.

Spiritual Development - Relates to that aspect of inner life through which pupils acquire insights into their personal existence which are of enduring worth.

Moral Development - Refers to pupils' knowledge, understanding, intentions, attitudes and behaviour in relation to what is right or wrong.

Social Development – Refers to pupils’ progressive acquisition of the competences and qualities needed to play a full part in society. It is concerned with the skills and personal qualities for individuals to live and function effectively in society.

Cultural Development - Refers to pupils’ increasing understanding and command of those beliefs, values, customs, knowledge and skills which, taken together, form the basis of identity and cohesion in societies and groups.

A variety of traditional and modern hymns are taught by a member of the community from St. Mary and St. Nicolas Church. These are then used in Acts of Worship, both in school and at church.

Collective Worship Times

Monday 9.00 – Choral Worship.

Tuesday 9.00 – Collective Worship

Wednesday 9.00 – Collective Worship

Thursday KS1 9.00 – Celebration Assembly including Act of Worship

KS2 – Class Based Worship

Friday KS1 9.00 – Class Based Worship






KS2 – Celebration Assembly including Act of Worship

Class assemblies, including an Act of Worship, take place on a termly basis to which parents are invited. We welcome the Local Council’s attendance at our Collective Worship at any time, with formal invitations to all church services being sent both to the Local Council and families of SPCEDs.

Celebration assemblies take place when there is not a class assembly, again incorporating an Act of Worship. These celebrations offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

Evaluating and Monitoring Collective Worship

Collective Worship is monitored and evaluated in a number of ways:

-  Collective Worship Leaders (UKS2 pupils) evaluate Collective Worship regularly making notes on their observations which are then considered by the Collective Worship team;
-  When Governors join us for Collective Worship they feedback their perspectives on the content and impact;
-  SLT regularly lead and attend Collective Worship and share their evaluations with staff.
-  An evaluation and suggestion box allows classes and individuals to say what they think about Collective Worship and these are monitored by members of the Collective Worship team and CW leaders;
-  Different aspects of Collective Worship are evaluated on a rota system E.g. themes, songs, prayers, leadership.

Legal Requirements of Collective Worship

As a Church of England school, we must provide an act of Collective Worship, for all children, every day. The act of Collective Worship can take place at any time of the school day, and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class.

The Local Council, in consultation with the Head Teacher, is responsible for the arranging of daily Collective Worship appropriate for, and to include, all children in the school. The Local Council, in

consultation with the Head Teacher, must ensure that all pupils each day engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian Worship which is in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church.

All acts of Collective Worship must be mainly Christian in nature and character and take account of and be applicable to pupils' ages and aptitudes and the circumstances relating to family background.

SPCEDS seeks to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. The reason for withdrawal does not have to be justified or explained. The school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned, although work will not be set during this period. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1988 Education Reform Act. Parents wishing to exercise this right are requested to do so in writing following a meeting with the Head Teacher, this will be recorded for future reference.

It is illegal for staff to withdraw children from Collective Worship (for intervention groups, music lessons, booster classes, etc) – due to the requirement that an act of Collective Worship must be provided each day for every child.

4) Resources (including CPD)

Child and clergy led worship use resources from a range of sources including A Teacher's Dozen, a resource that links Collective Worship with the SEAL Curriculum. A range of hymn books are available in school containing both traditional and modern worship songs.

Relevant CPD will be offered to staff when available.

5) Specific Information (links to other areas)

Clear links exist to RE, particularly in relation to the SIAMs framework alongside links to PSHCE and SMSC. In allocating roles, e.g. Collective Worship leader this is done in a fair and equitable manner to ensure equality across groups of pupils.

6) Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the Head Teacher, in conjunction with a named school governor with responsibility for Religious Education and Collective Worship and the Collective Worship team, to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship, reporting to the Local Council. Collective Worship is recorded by the Collective Worship leaders, who provide feedback on worship in order for those leading it to evaluate their practice and make any changes as appropriate.

7) Inclusion

Collective Worship at SPCEDS will be accessible to all pupils and staff, taking account of ages, abilities and aptitudes. It seeks to be inclusive, invitational and inspirational to all.

8) Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.