

Spalding Parish Church of England Day School

*We are a caring Christian Community built on
Compassion, Trust, Friendship and Hope*

Collective Worship Policy

Date of Policy: January 2009

Date of Review: January 2011

Adopted by Governing Body: February 2009

Signed by Chair of Governors: Melvyn Price

This policy is a live document which will be reviewed at least annually.

1 Introduction

This policy outlines the purpose, nature and leadership of Collective Worship in our school. As a Church of England school, Collective Worship is central to the life of the school.

The Collective Worship Policy at Spalding Parish Church of England Day School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the Local Authority through its SACRE and also the Diocese.

This policy is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus. It reflects the consensus of opinion of the whole teaching staff and has the support and agreement of the Governing Body.

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all members of staff.

2 Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God,
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues,
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs,
- to encourage participation and response,
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit,
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes,
- to teach children how to worship.

3 Collective Worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating. We expect everyone to take an active part in the worship.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that Collective Worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and being a Church of England school we base our acts of worship on the teachings of Christ and 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.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian based, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

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.

4 Organization of Collective Worship

A daily act of collective worship is held in our school. One act of worship each week is led by the clergy. Class assemblies take place on a termly basis to which parents and governors are invited. However, we welcome parents' and governors' attendance at our collective acts of worship at any time, with formal invitations to all 'special' assemblies' and church services – Class, Harvest, Christmas, Easter, End of Key Stage assemblies etc. This promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way home and school work together to support the achievements of our children.

Celebration assemblies take part when there is not a class assembly. Assemblies 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.

Whole school acts of worship are held at the beginning and end of each term.

Collective Worship is conducted in a dignified and respectful manner. We tell children that it is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave appropriately. We ask them to be thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings, participating fully in prayers, hymns and activities. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, candles and Christian symbols.

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 taken by the Head Teacher and all members of staff, unless they object on religious grounds. The themes are planned by the SLT with the clergy, making links to the PSHCE curriculum.

Hymns are planned in advance to complement the worship themes and in preparation for special services.

Collective Worship Times

FS/KS1	10:15
KS2	10:35
Class Assemblies	9:00 in the main hall

5 Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship. The school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. 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.

6 Every Child Matters

Collective Worship supports the 5 outcomes for Every Child Matters in the following ways:

- **Being healthy** – exploring what it means to respect the body while reflecting on religious belief; investigating healthy living through religious teachings and caring for the world around us. Encouraging a healthy mind through reflective activities which consider spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues.
- **Staying safe** – offering rules to guide individuals within communities and support the vulnerable. Giving opportunities to explore prejudice and discrimination. Helping to consider who it is safe to follow and to be influenced by, encouraging positive attitudes. Reflecting on the value of security gained from family life and rituals. Encouraging children to take responsibility for who and what they are.
- **Enjoying and achieving** – providing stimulating and diverse opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural themes that enable individuals to learn about themselves and others, whilst developing their self esteem and ‘responding’ on their own level. Encountering living faith through visits and

visitors and being given opportunities to explore and share their own beliefs. Creating an inclusive community that inspires and celebrates the achievements of all, including children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

- **Making a positive contribution** – enabling children to explore the concept of community and their role within it, including responsibility for the environment. Promoting an understanding that there are often no right answers through developing open mindedness and a willingness to adjust and amend views. Help develop the ability to disagree respectfully and stand up for what they believe.
- **Achieving economic well-being** - giving opportunities to consider critically the meaning of ‘economic well being’ through studying the responses of faith to money, wealth and responsibility. Experiencing spiritual, moral, social and cultural themes through Collective Worship that allows children to grow and develop into individuals prepared for working life, with an ability to flourish in the workplace.

7 Resources

Suitable resources are purchased to ensure the daily act of collective worship is able to be undertaken. Collective worship files can be found in each hall containing resources and record sheets to give information about the worship presented. Compact Discs are also found in each of the halls to support the entry and exit to the hall, setting the tone required.

8 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, to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship, reporting to the Governing Body.