

## Sample Collective Worship Policy

Schools may use this example as a basis for their policy, if they wish. School policies have to be ratified by the governors every time they are amended. Schools may find that some details which need to be amended more often than a policy is reviewed are better placed in an appendix which does not need to be governor approved every time it changes. **This template policy should be used in conjunction with the Diocesan Collective Worship Guidelines and support materials which provides more in depth explanation and support.**

The template policy provides sections in red for schools to tailor to their own context.

### Rationale

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of **(make reference and expand on the school's Christian vision here)** and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Therefore Collective Worship at xxx School is planned to **(The following are drawn largely from the SIAMS schedule but feel free to adapt and add):**

- to be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- will regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the schools core Christian values
- will have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- will help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- will challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection Stillness
- will contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to"
- will be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

Collective worship should be invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

## Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation.

### Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus and handbook.

Parents contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

### Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

This section should include how the policy deals with matters of inclusion and it should make reference to the school inclusion and equal opportunities policy

### Planning Collective Worship (edit and adapt as appropriate)

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by ...[e.g., lighting a candle/asking children to reflect quietly ...].

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4 stage structure of planning including 'Gathering' 'engaging' 'responding' 'sending'. There should also be space for evaluation. A worship-planning group meets once a term led by the worship co-ordinator. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last terms Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term. The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the Schools Council/Ethos committee. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning leading and monitoring of Collective worship.

xxxxx one of the schools governors has a role monitoring Collective worship through membership of the ethos committee at the school.

There are a number of resources available to form the basis of collective worship planning. If you use a specific planning resource to a significant degree you could mention it here. This might include such as 'Out of the Box Worship' or 'Roots and Fruits' both available on [www.imaginer.co.uk](http://www.imaginer.co.uk)

It is for the school to decide how best, in its own context, pupils should take part in Collective Worship, e.g. in year groups, key stage groups, upper/lower school, tutor/class groups, whole school. The law makes no requirement about this other than it is daily.

The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by xxxxx

### Our pattern of Collective Worship

Whole School Worship is held .... a week. These are taken by ....

Class / Key Stage worship is held ..... a week. These are taken by ...

Visitors have included ...

Acts of worship generally follow themes that are linked to the schools vision and values and include the pattern of the church's year.

### Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher. **Schools are strongly advised to have a policy for visitors to the school.**

### Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship

Certain named individuals [NAMES of staff, ministers, parents or friends of the school who are involved.....] are involved on a regular basis with the worship programme. Other staff and pupils are given the opportunity of being involved in this programme every term.

You may want to include the role of the  
Summary of XXXXX School pattern of worship

### Monitoring and evaluation (select from below)

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on a termly basis.

All who deliver worship will be observed on a termly basis. This process supports the school's self-evaluation, is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body.

Pupils are also involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in weekly class worship, questionnaires and pupil conferences.

All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our suggestion boxes and questionnaires, which are

reviewed and considered on a regular basis. (Attach as an appendix) These are shared with our (worship committee, during full governing body meetings) and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York(SIAMS).

Policy agreed by Board of Governors on [date]