



Lea Endowed CE Primary School Collective Worship Policy

‘Let Everyone Shine’

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At Lea Endowed Church of England School we provide an excellent education for our children. We follow God’s example, by loving Him, and each other, in all that we do.

Our whole school family is encouraged to achieve their full, God given potential and shine in their own special way.

“Let your light shine.”

Matthew 5:16

Worship Lead: C Seagrave

Policy Updated: November 2019

Review Date: November 2021 (earlier if appropriate)

Link Governor: H. Holderness

Collective Worship at Lea Endowed

Collective worship underpins the fulfilment of our Vision statement, the aims and ethos of the school, our spiritual development and to the distinctively Christian education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school. As such, Collective Worship is at the centre of daily school life. All staff and governors view it as an essential part of children's spiritual education. The worship and prayer life of the school are not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship.

Opportunities are taken to use prayer and reflection, as appropriate, throughout the day, in the curriculum generally, in praying before meals and at the end of the school day.

We fully advocate that we can Worship God, anytime, anyplace, anywhere however in respect of Collective Worship in our Church of England School and particularly for the purposes of this policy, we are concerned with the designated and special acts of worship which is to enable all within our community to encounter, worship and praise God.

Collective worship involves all members of our school family coming together to share time worshipping. We believe fully in the equity of worship; recognising that the worship of a young child is as highly valued in God's heart, as that of any adult. Everyone is expected to participate, and those leading the worship, do so in a manner that is as far as possible, sensitive to the ethos of the school, religious traditions, and beliefs. As a Church of England Aided School we consider worship to be central to the life of our school community. It is an affirmation and celebration of the values, principles and ethos of our school and provides the main opportunity for the children and adults to express and develop their spirituality.

Management of Collective Worship

Lea Endowed is a Voluntary Aided school and, therefore, the management of Collective Worship is a distinctive role of the governors and Headteacher. Collective Worship is managed in accordance with the Trust Deed and in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England. The governing body is responsible for determining the nature of Collective Worship provided in the school.

Forms of worship within our denomination differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship; as well as drawing upon our denominational heritage, we also expect to draw upon the rich diversity of practice in the worldwide Christian church.

Collective Worship and RE

Collective worship and RE naturally complement and enrich one another. However, they are managed and led separately and Collective Worship does not form part of the time allocation for RE. Although worship is not designated as curriculum time under current DfE regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school. Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of RE and the National Curriculum and frequently involves teaching and learning activities such as discussion and question and answer. Pupils may be read to, instructed, asked to listen to readings, think about and respond to stimulus such as a work of art, music or drama.

Collective Worship and Assembly

The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when other purposes, eg important notices and announcements need to be made to the school family. If notices are to be given out, this is done either before the candle is lit (preferable) or after it has been extinguished to identify the difference.

Aims of Collective Worship

- To provide an opportunity for our school family to come together to worship and praise God.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and of the Christian faith.
- To promote the understanding that The Holy Spirit is key to our worship, and that He helps us to bring glory to God the Father and The Son.
- To contribute to the Vision, ethos and aims of our school.
- To learn about and reflect upon Christian values and, in particular, the core values identified for our school

These aims will:

- Help children and adults to explore and develop their own spirituality and show them how to worship.
- Enable children and adults to consider spiritual, social, moral and cultural issues.
- Enable children and adults to explore their own beliefs.
- Encourage participation and response.
- Promote a sense of community spirit and common ethos with shared values and positive attitudes.
- Confirm and celebrate the global nature of the Christian faith
- Foster a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty, mystery and power of the Creator God;
- Foster new insights about life and empathy for others;
- Show that God is involved in and concerned about all areas of human life;
- Bring children and adults towards worshipping God through Jesus;
- Further develop links with the parish church and other churches locally;
- Celebrate festivals and saints' days in the church year;
- Promote experiencing different forms of Christian worship;

Organisation and delivery of Worship at Lea Endowed

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole school (Rev Peter/CS)	KS1 Worship/ KS2 Class Worship	Whole School (God's Big Plan)	Key stage 2 Worship/ KS1 Class Worship	Celebration Worship (Courageous Advocate of the Week)

- Parents and families are invited to the special festival celebrations and to whole school, church and class-led acts of worship as appropriate.
- Outdoor Worship (Whole School and Class Worship) is actively promoted and enjoyed by the school family - this creates a sense of awe and wonder eg Frosty Morning Prayer Walk, Class Worship in the Outdoor Worship/Reflection area.
- The Ethos group lead Whole School Worship half termly (and at other times as appropriate).
- Governors have an open invitation to join the school for worship at any time.
- The school worships at St Christopher's church several times a year, eg Harvest, Christmas, end of school year.
- In addition to school staff and clergy, the school encourages other visitors from a wide range of Christian traditions to contribute to worship.
- All staff attend worship where possible.

Creating a Worshipful Atmosphere

- The school family enters and leave the hall to Christian worship music.
- Christian symbols are used on the worship table, eg cross, candle.
- An appropriate child friendly Bible is always placed on the Worship table
- A candle / several candles (Celebration worship) are lit at the beginning of worship and are extinguished at the end
- A greeting and response eg 'Peace be with you', "God is good" etc are used at the beginning of each act of worship and is usually shared by a child to introduce our worship.
- Music, singing and silence are used to encourage periods of celebration, reflection and prayer.
- Children and adults participate in singing a wide range of worship songs.

We regard worship as a special time and behaviour expectations are high. We support this by the use of music, lighted candles and worship table appropriately set out.

All teachers are encouraged to lead whole school worship, the vicar visits weekly to lead worship and visitors are also welcomed. We regularly invite parents and friends to worship as this promotes the community spirit of the school and demonstrates in a practical way how our school and home, worship and work together to support the children.

We plan our collective worship as a series of themes, linked to our Christian Values and God's Big Plan. They are also linked to the festivals and events of the Christian calendar.

Our Worship also naturally reflects the achievements and learning of our children. We encourage their participation at many levels including:

- Reading prayers, saying their own prayers, through Bible readings and reflections.
- Acting out dramas and mini plays.
- Through 'freeze frames' and tableaux.
- Producing Worship Power Points
- By celebrating their work and sharing their God given talents and achievements (both in and out of school).

Equal Opportunities

Our aim is that every child is given the opportunity and support to learn and develop their full potential in every area of school life regardless of sex, race, ability, social class, religion or appearance.

Content and Approaches

Worship is organised around a range of themes which include:

- Embedding our Vision –to love God and each other and express this through our worship
- Major Christian festivals and elements of the Christian year;
- The 12 core values identified by the school;
- Multi-cultural Christianity – Christians worshipping across the world
- God's Big Plan - covering God's great plan for mankind- exploring the main spiritual concepts: *God, Creation, The Fall, The People of God, Incarnation, The Gospels, Salvation and The Kingdom of God*
- Courageous Advocacy and Values in Action
- Celebration of curriculum work;
- Special events in the life of the school.

Themes may be developed over different periods of time. Occasionally, acts of worship stand alone. Various approaches are used in the delivery of worship. These include:

- Adult and pupil led;
- Story-telling;
- Music and movement;
- Drama, Puppets and role-play;
- Visual aids including Power point;
- Poetry;
- Silence and reflection.

Evaluation

Evaluation of any act of worship is challenging. Some feedback may be indicated by:

- the response of those involved (immediately or later);
- the concentration span of the children;
- Ethos group meetings
- Children and staff comments in worship evaluation notebooks; children's evaluations;
- feedback from others, eg. staff, visitors.

Evaluations are carried out at intervals throughout the year and involve children (Ethos group), staff and governors. Feedback is collated and used to inform future planning.

Monitoring

It is the role of the Collective Worship leader to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship and ensure it is fully supportive of our School Vision. The person concerned liaises with the SLT and reports to the Governors through the Headteacher's termly report to the Governing Body.

In addition, the Chair of Governors attends Collective Worship whenever he can.

Several governors attend worship, weekly

The role of the Collective Worship Leader

- To be passionate in bringing our Lea Endowed school family close to God's heart in worship.
- To sensitively coordinate and lead Spirit-led worship.
- Take overall responsibility for the annual and half-termly plans for worship.
- To keep a record of worship throughout the year.
- To include Worship in the planning for School Improvement (see Monitoring and Evaluation)
- To organise resources and plan spending within current budget constraints
- To ensure that medium term plans support worship leaders/classes in planning individual acts of worship.
- To ensure that reporting to governors concerning worship is included in the Headteacher's termly report.
- To review the policy every two years.

Resources

- A cross, candle and a Bible used in Collective worship are displayed on 3 shelves in the Hall, in full view of the school family, throughout the week
- A range of artefacts, cloths and CDs are available for worship.
- A range of files and books are stored on the shelves in the staffroom and in HT's office

Useful websites:

www.bdeducation.org.uk

www.stapleford-centre.org

www.sermons4kids.com

www.thebricktestament.com www.bbc.co.uk

www.assemblies.org.uk

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend collective worship but any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending, and the school will make alternative arrangements for supervision of the child. However, according to Blackburn Diocese, it is important to note that:

The worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the life of the whole school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and or Religious Education cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

The Headteacher keeps a record of all the children who are withdrawn from collective worship.