



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

### FARNWORTH CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Recommended by	J. Stillings
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#### CHANGE RECORD FORM

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2.2	July 2017	September 2017	JS	To reflect SIAMs inspection outcomes and recommendations



**Love** And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:5 (NLT)

**Peace** May the Lord show favor toward you, and give you peace. Numbers 6:26 (NLT)

**Faithfulness** Great is Your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:23b (NASB)

My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song. Psalm 28:7 (NIV) **Joy**

**Goodness** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23:6 (KJV)

**Gentleness** Pursue a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. 1 Timothy 6:11b (NLT)

Meanwhile, the saints stand passionately patient, keeping God's commands, staying faithful to Jesus. Revelation 14:12 (The Message) **Patience**

**Self-Control** A person without self-control is like a house with its doors and windows knocked out. Proverbs 25:28 (The Message)

**Kindness** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galations 5:22-23a (NIV)

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### 1. Rationale

At Farnworth CE School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly. As a school, we will not shy away from our responsibilities in enabling children to think deeply about themselves, the world in which they live and the place that faith has in our society.

### 2. Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of collective worship are to:

- enable pupils to explore and respond to a variety of forms of worship, thus enabling those pupils with a religious commitment to deepen their experience of worship, and to allow those without a religious commitment to begin to appreciate what worship means for others.
- foster an attitude characterised by feelings such as humility, awe, wonder, appreciation, thankfulness, respect, reverence and elation.
- enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues and the many questions which relate to life.
- acknowledge the things which have meaning, value and purpose for the pupils as individuals, as well as for the school and the wider community.
- develop a sense of community within and beyond the school.

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- celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to individual pupils within school, to the school as a whole, or to the wider community.
- acknowledge and respect difference and diversity.

### 3. Christian Values

***“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control”*** (Galatians 5:22-23).

We have adopted these values as a school and from these, formulated our ‘golden rules’. These are important for our school life together and help us to develop our distinctiveness as a Church school. We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

### 4. Values Education

We blend Christian teaching and values education in order to create opportunities for children to develop spiritually, physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

### 5. Ethos Group

The school has an active Ethos Group consisting of representatives from Key Stage 2. The group meets once a week and is integrally involved in the planning and delivery of the worship programme. Their role is to look at pupil participation in worship and how this can be presented in different ways. They also make a significant contribution to Christian celebrations throughout the school year and deliver their own act of worship once a term.

### 6. Legal Requirements

Collective worship has been a statutory requirement since the 1944 Education Act. The 1988 Education Reform Act subsequently relaxed some of the prescription with regard to time and grouping but affirmed the statutory position. The requirement for a daily act of collective worship was confirmed in the 1996 Education Act and there has been no subsequent change to primary legislation. As a school, we acknowledge the legal requirement which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group.

At Farnworth CE Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

### 7. Organisation

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We instil in children that collective worship is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns.

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We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children including the children taking on the role of worship leaders. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday	Whole school worship led by a member of St Luke's church or visiting clergy; headteacher or Collective Worship lead	Infant hall
Tuesday	Key Stage 'Celebration'	Infant and Junior Halls.
Wednesday	'Sing his Praises', with prayer/reflection time, led by the Music co-ordinators	Infant and Junior halls
Thursday	Key Stage collective worship / KS1 'Open the Book' on alternate weeks	Infant and Junior halls
Friday	Whole school Celebration led by the Headteacher	Infant hall

Throughout the school year there is an annual programme of additional events such as class led collective worship; Foundation Stage Welcome service; Experience Easter. In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship.

## 8. Planning, Content and Detail

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship is varied and evidenced in planning which is kept by the Collective Worship co-ordinator.

The theme for each week's collective worship is introduced on a Monday and revisited throughout the week. Each theme reflects our Values' focus for that half term. Time is also given during the year for reflections on the Church calendar; other faiths, global citizenship and current events.

The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music for the week. Sometimes music is chosen and played by children on their own instruments.

The candles on the altar table are lit and the worship begins with the children singing a hymn. The children are involved in the worship throughout and this finishes with a prayer. The candles are then blown out before any messages are given. This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played.

Wednesday's 'Sing his Praises' hymn practice includes the lighting of candles to focus the children's attention and aims to develop the children's understanding of new hymns as well as learning them. The session ends with a time for reflection or a prayer before the candles are blown out and messages are given. The children leave in the same way as before.

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Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 have planned themes for their act of collective worship on Thursdays. The format is similar to Monday's whole school worship, although a hymn is not always sung.

Tuesday's 'Celebration Assembly' allows the children an opportunity to share their achievements from the previous week and reflect on the talents that God has given us.

### 9. Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, extempore prayers, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of whole school worship, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles. At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace / age appropriate lunchtime prayer is said by either an adult or child in each class.

Teachers will give the children in their class the opportunity for prayer and / or a time of reflection at the end of the day.

The worshipful life of the school is also enhanced by an adult prayer group which meets in the Headteacher's office every Monday morning.

The school prayer is as follows:

Heavenly Father, bless our school  
And everyone in it.  
Help us to share in learning together,  
So that we may understand and enjoy  
All the wonders of the world, and rightly use all your gifts.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord,  
Amen

The children are taught this prayer in Foundation Stage. Other prayers taught to the children include the end of day prayer:

Lord keep us safe this night  
Secure from all our fears  
May angels watch us while we sleep  
'Til morning light appears  
Amen

And the morning prayer:

Oh my God I give to you  
All that I think and say and do  
All my work and all my happy play  
My God I give to you today

And the lunchtime prayer is grace:

For what we're about to receive  
May the Lord make us truly thankful/grateful

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## 10. Eucharist

Eucharist celebrations form a very important part in our Collective Worship. Opportunities for children to participate are maximised and parents and other members of the school and Parish are encouraged to attend. These take place for years 5 & 6 termly and are either held at school or St Luke's church.

## 11. Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

## 12. Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. The children's responses to collective worship are regularly sought as are the parents / carers following class led worship and key celebrations such as 'Experience Easter'. Currently a worship-planning meeting involving the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and representative from St Luke's Church is held once a term led by the Collective Worship co-ordinator. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last term's acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term. We are currently developing ways to include more people in this planning process with a view to establishing a steering committee made up of pupils, staff, parents / carers and members of St Luke's Church.

## 13. Visits and visitors

Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St Luke's Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services. The Foundry Church regularly share gospel based productions with the children and pastor Ray Tate leads worship on a half termly basis. Looking ahead, we aim to involve a wider range of worship leaders with further opportunities for the children to lead.

## 14. Policy review and development

Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of a named school governor, who is also responsible for religious education. The governor concerned liaises with the RE and Collective Worship co-ordinators before reporting to the governors on an annual basis at the summer term full Governing Body meeting.

Monitoring and evaluation informs the ongoing development of collective worship through consultation on impact and quality. Pupil voice forms an integral part of this process.

This policy will be reviewed biannually.

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