



"Let your light shine!"

Collective Worship Policy

Rationale and Ethos

At Frieth CEC School our aim is to shine a light on individual success and open the doors to our future global citizens by developing potential without limitations within a welcoming Christian and spiritual community. We embrace the uniqueness of everybody and are inclusive of all. Our values of respect, responsibility, resilience, honesty, kindness and creativity guide all that we do and we seek to develop these characteristics in all our pupils, preparing them to be reflective and responsible members of society who let their light shine. As a Church of England school, we believe that learning about the Christian faith and being involved in Christian worship can be a significant part in achieving this aim. We therefore give a high priority to collective worship in the school, alongside RE and other opportunities to learn about the beliefs and practice of Christianity.

Our Collective Worship reflects the diverse religious backgrounds of children in the school, some of whom are regular church goers, others have little or no Christian framework outside school, and some are members of other religions. Collective Worship provides an opportunity to learn about and praise God, to think about how we respect and show worth to ourselves, to others and to God. It is participatory and reflective, providing a different focus from the other parts of the learning experience and school day. In general, our Collective Worship is based on Bible stories, teaching values, or exploring of current topics and reflects the special place accorded to Jesus Christ in the Christian faith.

The Legal Requirements

The Education Reform Act (1988) requires that all registered pupils take part in a daily act of collective worship (although parents have the right to withdraw their children if they so wish). As a Church of England Aided School, the governing body determines the nature of collective worship after consultation with the Headteacher in accordance with the Trust Deed, the legal document setting out the basis on which the school was founded. This means that it reflects the traditions of the Church of England. We use the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning and we reflect upon Christian symbols and their use in worship. We observe the cycle of the Anglican year, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost, which provides a framework for a changing pattern of school worship.

Collective worship may take place at any time in the school day, and may be a single gathering for all pupils, or separate assemblies for smaller groups. The Education Reform Act (1988) states that; 'as a rule, all acts of collective worship should take place on the school premises... County and controlled schools which also wish to hold acts of collective worship off the school premises may do so, provided they are in addition to the daily statutory act of collective worship which must still be held on school premises.'

Aims of Collective Worship

Our aim is that worship should be inclusive, enabling all members of the school to participate with honesty and freedom. Collective worship at Frieth School aims to provide daily opportunities for children to:

- Develop an awareness of the presence of God in everyday life
- Develop an appreciation of the special relationship between God and people, expressed in the life of Jesus and celebrated in worship
- Develop an experience of being active members of a caring community by fostering an atmosphere of love, security and kindness
- Explore and share their own beliefs and those of others
- Consider the value of religious belief, prayer and worship in all cultures and religions of the world
- Think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community
- Appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them
- Re-affirm, interpret and put into practice the values of the school
- Celebrate and recognise the achievements of members of the school community and wider community
- Experience regular times when they can be receptive to their own inner worlds of thoughts, feelings and imaginings, and to reflect on them
- Experience the deepest concerns of their own spirits in reflection or offer them up in worship and prayer, if they wish to do so

(adapted from the NCC Discussion paper 4/93)

Planning for worship

Collective worship takes place in a timetabled assembly each day. Classes will also begin and end the day with a prayer.

Planning for worship takes several forms, sometimes with a theme running through a series of assemblies over a term. The themes are based on our vision and on the values chosen by the pupils, parents, staff and governors: Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Honesty, Kindness and Creativity. These support a whole school approach to developing an awareness of others, learning to respect other people, creeds and beliefs; and leading a life that reflects the teachings of Christianity. On some occasions, we respond to current events as needs are perceived and celebrate festivals from other cultures and religions as well as those of the Christian faith.

Each of our values is rooted in theology and key Bible stories have been chosen to represent these. The children will have the opportunity to share and reflect on those stories each year throughout their time with us.

Different staff may lead worship and a selection of resources are available to support this. We hold a 'Christian Copyright Licence' to cover use of resources. We also welcome in a variety of visitors and encourage our children to take responsibility for leading our assemblies. This can include individuals presenting a values-based assembly, whole classes delivering assemblies on a theme, or Friday 'Special Mentions' Assembly led by the Year 6 children. The aim of a 'Special Mentions' assembly is to celebrate the children's achievements, thus highlighting where they have 'let their light shine!' as individuals, groups or classes, outside of the school/classroom or within it and to recognise children demonstrating our school values. The year six pupils also lead a period of reflection based on the week's bible reading, value or theme, followed by prayers, the whole school prayer and a hymn. 'Class Assemblies' may encourage reflection on a variety of themes such as

current issues, a specific event or celebration, or the celebration of curriculum work. When possible, parents and governors are invited to attend these.

At the end of each term a 'Celebration Assembly' is held to celebrate those children who have attended school regularly and who have epitomised the theme for the term, once again parents and governors are invited to participate when possible.

The school keeps close links with the local church. As well as celebrating major events in the Christian calendar in the church, each term ends with a service in the church supported by a member of local clergy. Pupils are responsible for leading each of these services.

As a church school we have a close connection with the local worshipping community, and we enjoy mutual support and encouragement. Our local clergy regularly lead assembly and collective worship and we have many other regular Christian visitors, as well as visitors from other faith groups and from different charities.

Arrangements for Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship, and this is clearly stated in the school prospectus. Requests should be discussed with the Headteacher and alternative arrangements for the child will be made by the school.

Monitoring and Co-ordination of Worship

The Headteacher and SLT are responsible for the implementation, co-ordination and monitoring of collective worship, reporting to the governing body on these matters. Appropriate training is held for both staff and governors. Collective Worship will also be monitored by the designated governor, who will talk with children. Feedback will be given to the Governing Body and SLT.

This policy should be read in conjunction with our policies for Religious Education and Spiritual Development.

This policy will be reviewed by the Curriculum Committee at least once every three years.

Policy last reviewed: Spring 2021

Next review date: Spring 2024