

*Believe, achieve and grow together in Christ.*

**Collective Worship Policy**

**SUTTON OAK CHURCH OF  
ENGLAND  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Collective Worship Policy  
2023-2025**



“Believe, achieve and grow together in Christ.”

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## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **Our School Vision**

*Believe, achieve and grow together in Christ.*

### **Mission Statement**

*Inspiring a love of learning, love for one another and faith in God.*

### **Our Christian Values**

Friendship, Compassion, Forgiveness, Respect, Truthfulness, Trust, Perseverance and Thankfulness.

*Our aim is to provide a secure, safe and positive environment based on Christian values in which each child can reach their potential and become a responsible, trustworthy and caring member of society.*

In constant pursuit for quality in teaching, we endeavour to develop children with active, inquiring and creative minds by providing a creative and challenging curriculum matched to the spiritual, moral, intellectual, social, emotional, and physical needs of each child.

In partnership with parents and the community, we will encourage a sense of understanding and compassion for others, together with a sense of responsibility and the courage to act on their beliefs.

### **Ethos Statement**

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Churches at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

### **Overview**

The law requires all schools to provide a daily, collective act of worship that is on most occasions wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature. The time at which this takes place and the form of the Collective Worship (whole school, team or class groupings) may vary from day to day.

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In this school we will meet the requirements of the law in full. Whilst The 1996 Education Act gave parents the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship, it is hoped that all children will take part in worship as this is an integral and vital part of the school day. Where parents request it, their children will be withdrawn from the collective worship and alternative arrangements will be made for them.

Pupils must not be withdrawn from Collective Worship for any other reason, as this is a breach of the law. If it is necessary to withdraw children in order to accommodate, for example, peripatetic music lessons, those pupils must also be provided with an opportunity to worship at some stage in the day.

The aim of collective worship is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- Worship God
- Celebrate and affirm personal worth and religious belief
- Explain and celebrate the major festivals in the church calendar
- Offer the opportunity for spiritual awareness and growth and use silence as a means to encourage reflection, contemplation and prayer and to introduce the children to some formal elements of Christian worship, e.g. The Lord's Prayer and the School's prayer
- Experience a variety of forms of worship and become more aware of their own beliefs and those of others
- Celebrate difference and diversity within Christianity
- Attempt to create feelings of awe, wonder and appreciation, gratitude and respect
- Celebrate individual achievement, school achievement and wider community achievement within the context of worship
- Reflect on values that are of a Christian nature
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Respond to the worship offered.

Assemblies and other acts of Collective Worship contribute significantly to the delivery of some aspects of the National Curriculum – particularly Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development and certain aspects of the Personal, Social and Health Education course (PSHE). These are all areas within which pupils have an entitlement to experience throughout their education.

## **Collective Worship Policy**

Our acts of Collective Worship are underpinned by the '4 Is'. These are:

- 1) Inclusive
- 2) Invitational
- 3) Inspiring
- 4) Impact

The information below, taken from the Church of England Education Office Guidance Document 'Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring' May 2021, explains the first three of these principles.

**Inclusive:** Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. In the Church school pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. Many pupils and staff in our schools will come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, many pupils will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Pupils should be given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There should be space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching. Collective worship should not be 'done to' but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. It is recognised that pupils will bring their own experience to worship. Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship. Although part of a national legislative framework, collective worship in the Church school grows out of the local context and out of pupils' experience, including their cultural backgrounds.

**Invitational:** Parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There should be no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship should provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. The metaphor of 'warm fires and open doors' captures this idea. The warmth of the fire derives from the clarity and authenticity of the Christian message at its heart. There is no value to an encounter with a watered down, lowest common denominator version of faith. Importantly the door is open, all are welcome to come in and sit as near or as far away from the fire as they feel comfortable. Pupils and adults should always only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way. Prayer should always be accompanied by the option to reflect.

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**Inspiring:** Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter in a Church school to be inspirational. Worship should be formational and transformational: it should enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It should motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, they should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

**Impact:** Pupils' and adults' experiences of collective worship should impact on their day to day lives. It may affect the choices they make, the path they take or their relationships and interactions with others. Participants in worship should be supported to explore how their experiences can impact on their own lives.

### **Responsibility for Collective Worship**

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met.

The Worship Leader will be responsible for the organisation of the worship and planning the overview for each term. However, this might be delegated to other members of staff. Whenever possible, Clergy will also be encouraged to be involved in the planning and preparation of school worship as this will ensure continuity between the worship in the school and in the parish or parishes.

### **The Timing of Collective Worship**

Although Collective Worship is given a special period in the school day, a time when various groups within the school can meet together for prayer and reflection, Collective Worship can take place at any time and in any groupings. Collective Worship will also be held regularly in All Saints Church or other churches in the Sutton Parish, allowing whole school gatherings, and extending invitations to parents and members of the Church.

### **The Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship**

Good planning should underpin Collective worship in the same way that it will underpin all learning in the school.

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The Long-term planning is based on the 'Oscar out of the Box' and 'Roots and Fruits' publications and is closely linked to the ethos and aims of the school. Furthermore, planning will include special days in the Church's calendar. A 'value for the week' is identified in assemblies and reinforced by all staff. Pupils are encouraged to think of how they may demonstrate this value throughout the week/s and rewards are given for pupils demonstrating any Christian value. Short term planning is completed and saved electronically on the staff share.

Pupils are given regular opportunities to assist in, plan and deliver Collective Worship.

Worship is evaluated by pupils following each theme and their thoughts are compiled in a class Worship Evaluation Book. Evaluations follow a 'Windows, Mirrors, Doors' approach to encourage children to think deeply about the value they have explored. Feedback will help to improve the quality of worship offered to the pupils. Therefore, worship may also be evaluated other staff, pupils or visitors and a comment slip is provided for this purpose (Appendix 1).

The Worship Leader, along with the Headteacher and foundation governors, will monitor the planning and provision of worship on a termly basis. The monitoring process will include reporting back to the governing body.

### **Organisation**

Key stage collective worship will usually take place each day in the week. On occasions, when this is not possible, the daily act of worship will take place in individual classes.

The Headteacher, Assistant Headteachers and all teachers, are expected to lead Key Stage worship on a rota. Non-teaching staff will also be given the opportunity to lead worship. Individual guidance for staff leading collective worship will be given by the Worship Leader.

### **Content and Delivery**

We will aim to use a variety of Bible and other stories to raise issues and encourage the children to reflect on Christian, spiritual, moral insights as well as social and emotional learning.

The introduction of the 'Oscar out of the Box' and 'Roots and Fruits' resources provide support for teachers when planning acts of collective worship which use a 'Windows, Mirrors, Doors' approach.

Children will be invited to contribute to worship by sharing their thoughts, reflecting, praying, taking active roles within worship etc. Expression through singing and a variety of music will be a consistent part of our collective worship.

We will celebrate achievements as a method of affirmation.

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When appropriate, parents will be invited in to celebrate their children's achievements.

Parents and members of the All Saints Church community will be invited to services held in the church at special times of the year e.g. Harvest, Easter, Christmas.

### **Reflection**

We will encourage reflection through the use of a candle or other focus.

We will encourage reflection and prayer, we may use the school prayer, the Lord's prayer or other prayers daily.

Time will be given to reflect on world-wide issues with which the children may empathise.

<i>Compiled by:</i> Andrea Hughes	<i>Date:</i> September 2023
<i>Approved by:</i> Iwan Williams	<i>Review Date:</i> September 2025

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**Appendix 1**

Name of visitor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Grouping: KS1/KS2/Whole School/Class \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments:

Name of visitor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Grouping: KS1/KS2/Whole School/Class \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments: