

# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



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## RATIONALE

Two River's C of E Primary School's vision is built upon our Christian values and complements and enhances our mission. We aim to nurture every child to be the best they can be academically, spiritually and emotionally; and by each member of our community striving to do their best. We will all be displaying our values of kindness, courage and respect. Our school's vision has a clear Christian theological underpinning, based on the Biblical narrative underpinning our Christian Values.

'Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness'. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

## OUR VISION

"Our mission is for all pupils at Two Rivers Church of England Primary School to flourish as part of a thriving school community. We will enrich the academic, spiritual and emotional child to enable them to flourish in a community that aspires to achieve the very best outcomes for all. All pupils will feel safe, supported and inspired to develop their talents in all areas of life. We will open the horizons of our pupils and guide them into ways of creating a fulfilled and sustainable future as lifelong learners and successful citizens who are models of kindness, respect, courage and aspiration."

## OUR VALUES

Kindness, Respect, Courage and Aspiration

## JOHN 10:10

"Live Life in all its fullness.'

## POLICY STATEMENT

In Two Rivers Church of England Primary School worship is central to the life of the school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At Two Rivers Church of England Primary School, collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (and other faiths) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

## LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, “that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, is not relevant. Worship at Two Rivers Church of England Primary School should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governing body of the school has the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the head teacher.

## THE RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

At Two Rivers Church of England Primary School there are significant numbers of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non- religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the head teacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts.

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

((This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective worship at Two Rivers Church of England Primary School aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth
- Be the central vehicle by which the school’s vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief

- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP PLANNING

We follow this process when planning for collective worship.

Gathering together	Engaging together	Reflecting together	Leaving together
<p>Light a large candle, say and sign: Come Lord Jesus, come and be with us.</p> <p>Listen to quiet music</p> <p>Look at pictures of nature</p>	Use our own idea to help people think about the theme	Sing a worship song which fits in with the theme	End collective worship saying, "Our time together has ended, so go with God."
	Read or tell a bible story. Children could use costumes and props to help	Pray the Lord's prayer together. We could say it, sing it or sign it.	Use a prayer or blessing – write our own or choose one from a book
	Show and talk about a picture or several pictures to introduce our theme or story	Pray our school prayer together	Sing a leaving song – repeat the chorus Try starting loud and getting quieter with each repeat
	Listen to a song or piece of music to introduce our theme	Ask several people to say a short prayer and sing a reflective chant (e.g. Taize style)	Sing a blessing together: 'May God bless our school and homes' Ask the children to do something practically, related to the theme, at some point of time within the day
	Learn a new song of worship and explore its meaning together	Listen to a piece of music while thinking about the theme/message/story etc.	
	Use questions and answers to explore the theme together	Invite some pupils to present work they have prepared on the theme	
	Explore a topical issue (local or national) and think about an appropriate Christian response	Gather everyone's responses to the message of the worship and bring them together in a prayer	
	Explore the story behind a Christian festival	Listen to a prayer chosen or written by a pupil	
	Explore the story behind a Christian saint	Discuss a practical response to the message of the worship	
	Explore the story behind a Christian organisation e.g. Tear Fund	Spend time in quiet reflection, maybe using a candle as a focus	
	Explore the story behind a Christian piece of art	Strike a 'singing bowl' and ask the children to think of 1, 2, 3 or more ideas in the time it takes for the sound to finish	
	Talk about a relevant personal experience or tell a story that fits the theme	Have a small group of children perform a dance/movement to a piece of music for others to watch	

	Invite a visitor to share a story or message on the theme		
	Tell a story with children responding to key words through mime or action		

**MONDAY**

Collective worship focusing on kindness, respect, courage or aspiration

**TUESDAY**

Collective worship run by the clergy team on the term’s theme/ upcoming Christian festivals

**WEDNESDAY**

Exploring spirituality through singing

**THURSDAY**

Class collective worship based on Monday’s theme – exploring spirituality through reflection and discussion of “Big Questions”

**FRIDAY**

Collective worship centred around celebration, linking to school values and vision.

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP MONITORING**

- Ethos Group monitor collective worship three times a year
- Pupil voice three times a year
  - We have appointed a team of House Captains who serve as spiritual leaders. These children will be monitoring collective worship.