



Collective Worship Policy

*"There is an open door from the room of wonder to the room of praise,
where creation continually celebrates its being."*

Letters from an Extreme Pilgrim: Reflections on Life, Love and the Soul

By Peter Owen Jones

Collective worship is inclusive and respects the diverse faith and non-theistic traditions of the families within our school whist, and the same time, being mindful of the school's Trust deeds, by presenting Christianity in an authentic way.

At Dartington C of E Primary and Nursery School Collective Worship models the school's Christian ethos and values, and proclaims its Church School identity. As a result it should:

- Have a recognised place in key school documents, such as the vision and aims of the school
- Be well organised, well planned, well delivered and well resourced
- Be special and different from ordinary classroom activities, offering a sense of occasion
- Be both inclusive and unifying, recognising the personal integrity of all members of the school community
- Include four main elements of Gathering, Engaging, Responding and Sending. Collective Worship is meant to make a difference and be trans-formative

In the past our school has benefitted from a close partnership with the local vicar, which is continued through support from the Totnes Ministry. We have maintained our collective worship focus through whole staff development and Learning Community joint training from Diocesan representatives.

A team linked to Totnes Ministry, known as Open The Book, deliver stories from the Bible at regular whole school assemblies with adults joined by pupils to act out the parts. Pupils are encouraged to reflect on the stories and ask questions to deepen their understanding.

In Collective Worship we recognise that children and adults will be responding in different ways and at different levels, Some will be passive observers, learning about worship, but not participating in it; some will be 'at the threshold', interested in the process and participating in it, but not full believers; for others the act of collective worship may be a time of real worship of God.

It is the task of collective worship to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised but in which everyone finds something positive for themselves.

Aims:

Collective worship should provide opportunities for pupils to

- Worship God
- provide our children with regular opportunities for stillness and reflection
- Explore their own beliefs
- Encourage participation and response
- promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community and all who belong in it, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of our children.
- Create a space for reflection within the course of the school day
- Reflect, express, affirm or challenge commonly accepted personal and social values

Collective Worship Timetable - Key Stage One and Two

Day	Collective Worship			Led by
	Key Stage One	Years Three and Four	Years Five and Six	
Monday	Key Stage One and Two Act Of Worship Drawing on the planned theme for the term			Headteacher
Tuesday	Class AOW	Class AOW	Class AOW	Class teachers
Wednesday	Class AOW	Class AOW	Class AOW	Class teachers
Thursday	Class AOW	Phase AOW	Class AOW	Class teachers
Friday	Phase AOW	Phase assembly - praise		Teachers
3 x term	Forest Family - half day sessions			Forest Family Leaders

Our Early Years Foundation Stage has a daily 'gathering' known as Celebration Time. Pupils sing together, are praised in line with our Christian values e.g. for being a good friend, being fair to others, for being thankful etc. and have stories that expand these examples

Key Stage One and Two have performances from the Open The Book team, a group from Totnes Ministry who share a story from the Bible which is acted out, including pupils taking parts.

Guidelines

- The Education Reform Act (1988) requires schools to provide a daily act of collective worship for all registered pupils.
- Nursery Schools and classes are exempt from the requirement.
- Collective worship is a special occasion and provides a moment of reflection in a busy day. Through collective worship we deal with the senses of tradition, space, community and wonder.
- During the year we will seek to include a range of topics that contribute to personal growth and development. We link our themes closely to learning within Thrive (explicit understanding of social and emotional development and learning). This is also woven into Forest Family sessions which explore the them more deeply with creative opportunities and with reference to our Christian values.
- Our Christian values are each held by one of our ten vertical family groups (Forest Families). Specific references will be made to these values within a rolling programme of focus. (see the end of the policy for families and values)
- Each term we develop an aspect of personal response, drawing on the analogy of windows - for seeing 'ow' and 'wow' moments in ourselves and others, mirrors - reflecting on the deeper questions we ponder for ourselves, and doors - the actions we then choose to take.
- The cycle of collective worship follows the Christian calendar and biblical links. When considering themes the following areas provide some useful leads: festivals, biblical narratives, inspirational figures, school events, the curriculum, beliefs, the values we promote and our natural environment.
- Our school is supported by the team from Open The Book, developed through Totnes Ministry to act out and share stories from the Bible, including pupils in taking parts, asking questions and responding to the worship.
- On occasions of significant news, or an important or unexpected event shared by members of the school, we may divert from our planned theme.
- The church will be used as a venue for collective worship at occasions across the year

- We welcome parents, carers and visitors to contribute to our worship and to join us when possible, particularly for celebrations and whole school events
- Pupils are encouraged to contribute to the planning, leading and development of collective worship
- Headteachers in County Schools must consult governors but are themselves responsible for arranging acts of worship and ensuring that they take place
- We attempt to be inclusive in our acts of worship and respect individual beliefs and values, maintaining the integrity of all participants
- We always seek to make the worship appropriate to age, ability and family background of all pupils
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship.
- Teachers, including Headteachers, have the same right of withdrawal.
- In county schools, collective worship is to be "wholly or mainly Christian" and "not to be distinctive of any denomination". (ERA Section 7.1)
- Section 7.2 of the Education Reform Act requires collective worship to be broadly Christian and for this to be so it should "reflect the broad tradition of Christian belief".

Planning and review:

Collective worship has an over arching view for the year, which is then planned in greater detail for each term.

These plans are written by the Headteacher and developed for phases by leaders, drawing on whole school focus and staff discussions, and then shared with all staff. A termly plan is available in the staffroom.

Planning links Collective Worship with religious festivals and special events, Thrive and monthly Forest Family activities. Staff draw on the plan for the term to inform class or team Acts of Worship. Wherever possible each term includes a Home Learning aspect so that our areas of reflection are shared with parents.

Plans are altered in response to any need that arises during each term, and reviewed as part of the planning for the following term.

Forest Family Christian values:

The following is an overview of each of our Forest Families (vertical family groups), their leaders and chosen Christian value.

Forest Family	Christian value	Forest Family	Christian value
Horse Chestnut Emma Bennett Amy Humphreys	<i>Thankfulness</i>	Silver Birch Karen Wallis	<i>Creation + Creativity</i>
Ash Mariana Foucher	<i>Trust</i>	Holly Claire Sims Sophie Hope	<i>Hope</i>
Oak Jamie Wright	<i>Justice</i>	Rowan Amina Abdellaoui	<i>Friendship</i>
Alder Fina Lewis	<i>Forgiveness</i>	Beech Jill Mahon	<i>Peace</i>
Hawthorn Gilly Honey	<i>Generosity</i>	Hazel Hannah Calder	<i>Service + Compassion</i>

Further information and discussion of the legal requirements will be found in 'A Devon Approach to Collective Worship', which has been written and agreed upon by members of Devon's SACRE.

This policy was adopted by the Standards & Curriculum Committee in the Summer Term 2018 and is due to be reviewed in the Summer Term 2019.