



SYWELL CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy



This is a Trust Policy– details specific to individual academies and their procedures are added by the academy in the *Appendices*. (For a copy of the policy for a specific academy which includes the *Appendices* – see the individual academy website).

September 2021
Date for Next Revision – September 2022

Collective Worship Policy

“Working together for each child to realise their God-given potential to flourish”

Rationale

The Trust understands worship to be a special act or occasion, the purpose of which is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves pupils and staff coming together and participating in a daily gathering. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that collective worship should be “wholly or broadly of a Christian character”, collective worship in our academies is based on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we aim to conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the academy.

Collective worship contributes significantly to the ethos of the Trust and it is our aim that it is a time when the academy community can:

- Share common aims and values;
- Celebrate achievement and special times;
- Explore together the world in which we live;
- Develop a community spirit.

Aims for Collective Worship

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the pupils and academy community to worship God;
- To enable the pupils and academy community to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable the pupils and adults to explore their own beliefs;
- To encourage participation and response;
- To develop in pupils a sense of community spirit;
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- To introduce different ways of worshipping.

For further details of an individual academy’s aims and purpose of collective worship – see *Appendix 1*.

Practicalities of Organisation

Our academies hold a daily act of collective worship.

For academy specific details – see *Appendix 1*.

Content

A plan of themes is produced annually reflecting the values an academy has chosen. Our academies also consider and reflect on the festivals and special times of the Christian calendar.

For academy specific details – see *Appendix 1*.

Resources

For details of resources individual academies use – see *Appendix 1*.

Evaluation, Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the Academy Governance Committee (AGC) to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. As part of this, pupil interviews are carried out / pupil evaluation forms are reviewed.

Any academy specific details in relation to evaluation, monitoring and review are set out in *Appendix 1*.

Right of Withdrawal

As our academies are Church academies, we expect all pupils to attend collective worship, and we discuss this with parents / carers at the time of admission. However, any parent / carer can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the academy will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the pupil during the period concerned. Parents / carers do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with current legislation. The Headteacher keeps a record of any pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Appendix: School Specific Details

Sywell CE Primary School

School Vision

“Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.”
Romans 12:10

Our Christian Narrative (Romans 12:10) speaks to us of the unity of people working towards a shared purpose, whilst recognising and accepting people’s differences. At Sywell CEVA Primary School we are all “Working Together in God’s Hands” to build our community based on the values of love, respect and fellowship. These foundations underpin our holistic approach to supporting the whole child as an individual in their educational, social and spiritual growth. Together, we endeavour to ensure that every member of our community feels they are an important and valued part of our school.

Aims for Collective Worship

In addition to the aims already stated, at Sywell CE Primary School collective worship has a central place in our life and work. We provide an opportunity for pupils and staff to worship in a contemporary Christian style, which is consistent with the traditional beliefs and practices of the Church of England.

Practicalities of Organisation

Collective worship is mapped out across the year with termly plans provided to all worship leaders. Through the year both Christian and non-Christian festivals and significant dates will be celebrated and recognised through collective worship.

From this there is a daily act of collective worship that will usually follow this arrangement:

- Monday School Values / Bible Focus
- Tuesday Key Stage Assembly (including Big Question and Lighthouse sessions)
- Wednesday Wednesday Worship led by the clergy/ visiting leaders
- Thursday Singing
- Friday Celebration

Collective worship will usually be in the school hall but may take place in classrooms, outside, at church, other venues or remotely.

At Sywell collective worship is an important time for pupils and staff to think and reflect through biblical teachings, stories, songs and prayers. The start of worship is signalled by the lighting of a candle with an atmosphere enriched with music or a time of calm and quiet with the cross is on display as a focal point. Worship time is a time of reflection and pupils are taught, and expected to behave respectfully and are invited to join in with prayers each day. All staff are welcome to join shared worship led by members of the clergy. Other opportunities for prayer and reflection are given at lunchtimes and in classes at the end of each day.

The Headteacher and other members of staff conduct collective worship as well as members of the clergy from our connected church. Through the year other key visitors may also be invited in to lead worship with a range of focuses. This brings greater variety to our worship times and strengthens links between the school and the local church.

Parents / carers and governors are invited to join our clergy led collective worship, celebration and other special services, e.g. at Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year. This is an opportunity for our community to share in worship together. Worship opportunities are also offered to staff, pupils and their families as we attend services (e.g. Christingle, Easter Sunday and end of year services at St. Peter's and St Paul's Church).

Content

Sywell Schools three core values are **Love, Respect** and **Fellowship**.

Each term we have a new value which we learn about and endeavour to achieve. These are Hope, Tolerance, Trust, Respect, Honesty, Compassion, Justice, Fellowship, Service, Forgiveness, Love, Perseverance.

Collective worship is mapped out across the year with termly plans provided to all worship leaders. This ensures that a rich variety of worship is provided across the year allowing pupils to experience a broad range of teachings and Christian learning. Links to the wider curriculum are made where possible and similarly worship may link to the work children do in lessons where appropriate. Through our values worship pupils have the opportunity to lead and actively participate in worship. Weekly celebration offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward pupils for their achievements both in and out of school. This plays an important part in promoting our school's ethos where all pupils are valued and their achievements recognised.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Headteacher is responsible for the planning and coordination of collective worship across the school. Through the year pupil and staff voice is gathered to review and evaluate the quality of worship. There will be a nominated foundation link governor who is responsible for reviewing the evidence and evaluating the effectiveness of collective worship with the Headteacher.

Resources

The Lion Storyteller Bible and The Lion Bible for Children are used as the regular source of Bible material to share with pupils.

Song words and PowerPoints are kept electronically on the staff drive.

Roots and Fruits: A two year programme supporting collective worship focused upon the teaching of values.

SEAL

Lighthouse Trust

Useful websites:

www.worshipworkshop.co.uk

www.barnabasinschools.org.uk

www.imaginer.co.uk