



# Fingringhoe

Church of England (VA) Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

*'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'* ~Joshua 1:9

Our vision is to cultivate courageous, caring and compassionate individuals who are not only academically strong but also spiritually enriched and socially responsible. We aspire to create a nurturing and inspiring environment that promotes a sense of community, and instils responsibility in our students. By embodying Christian values, academic excellence, and a commitment to service, we empower our young learners to become the compassionate leaders and change-makers of tomorrow.

### Introduction

Our Collective Worship Policy strengthens and supports the Christian ethos of our school, explores our vision to cultivate courageous, caring and compassionate individuals who are academically strong, spiritually enriched and socially responsible. We aspire to create a nurturing and inspiring environment that promotes a sense of community and instils responsibility in our students. By embodying our Christian values of courage, care and compassion, we empower our young learners to become the compassionate leaders and change-makers of tomorrow. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year.

Worship in our school is not simply a statutory duty. The daily Christian act of collective worship is the heartbeat of our school, central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship as defined by the Education Reform Act 1988 are as follows:

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

*June 2025*

## Legal Requirements

We seek to comply with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must, on each school day, take part in an act of Collective Worship.
- The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government, and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character. Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, tutor groups, classes, or other combinations.
- Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises but all schools are able to hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
- Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school rests with the Local Governing Body in consultation with the Headteacher.

## Principles of collective worship

Each adult and pupil will experience worship that is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality (see Church of England's Collective Worship Guidance).<sup>1</sup> Collective worship therefore will be:

- **Inclusive** – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching.
- **Invitational** – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship will 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. Pupils and adults will only be invited to pray and sing if they wish to do so.
- **Inspiring** – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions.

## Implementation

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Collective%20Worship%20Guidance%2018052021.pdf>

In addition to the above, we seek to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England. Therefore:

We use the Bible as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and make pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other verses of scripture. We also introduce them to a variety of well-known prayers – many of which express the central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.

We use aspects of Anglican liturgy to create a framework for worship to gather, engage, respond, send. We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals.

At Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School, we aim to provide worship spaces, inside and outside, which are attractive and well prepared with appropriate thought having been given to colour, space, seating, ambience and music.

We foster links with St Andrew's Church, involving the Reverend Terry Walker in leading collective worship and providing coherence between worship in church and school and visit at special times of the year as part of the Christian calendar.

We recognise that different members of our school community spiritually reflect in different ways. Music, story, silence, prayer, drama and other approaches are incorporated within a varied collective worship offer.

### **Connections with other Christian denominations and faiths**

The Anglican Communion sees itself as part of a global church and promotes ecumenism. At Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School, we work to promote links with other local churches and Christian organisations and welcome their clergy and leaders as contributors to acts of collective worship. We recognise that while some of our pupils and families belong to Anglican churches, many worship regularly at churches of other Christian denominations, while others come from different faith backgrounds or none. We endeavor to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised, where everyone finds something positive for themselves and there is no pressure to participate inappropriately or to believe.

### **Rights and Responsibilities**

As established by the 1944 Act and reinforced through this policy, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. However, having chosen to send their children to Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School, it is hoped that no one will exercise this right. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with the requirements of the Act.

## **Our Collective Worship Pattern and Practice**

### **Leadership**

At Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School, Collective Worship is a valued and cherished part of our daily routine. Each day, the school community comes together to share a special time of togetherness, reflection, and inspiration. Worship at our school takes many different forms, including readings, music, prayer, and moments of quiet reflection. The Headteacher, Senior Teacher and all Class Teachers are involved in leading Collective Worship. We also regularly enjoy visits from Revd. Terry Walker, as well as visiting groups such as Open the Book.

Collective Worship offers a daily opportunity to pause, give thanks, and consider the values that help shape who we are as individuals and as a community. It is a time for us to reflect on our lives, to celebrate our achievements, and to be inspired by the world around us. We also take this time to think about important issues in the wider world and explore our own personal responses to them with empathy and understanding.

Pupils play an active and important role in our Collective Worship. They take great pride in helping to prepare the special space where we gather each day, ensuring it is calm, welcoming, and ready for reflection. In church, our Year 6 pupils take on key responsibilities during worship. They lead parts of the service by ringing the bell to call our school community together, reading from the Bible, leading prayers, and lighting the candle to mark the beginning of our time of worship. These moments are not only meaningful but also symbolic, giving pupils the chance to grow in confidence and take ownership of our shared values.

## **Planning**

At our school, Collective Worship is thoughtfully planned by the Headteacher, ensuring it is inclusive, meaningful, and reflective of our Christian ethos. All children and staff are encouraged to actively participate and lead parts of Collective Worship, fostering a sense of ownership and community.

Upper Key Stage Two pupils are responsible for the preparation of the area for Collective Worship, in the school hall or at St Andrew's Church. Year 6 pupils are responsible for the gathering and sending. The member of staff leading Collective Worship is responsible for the theme and direction and will select suitable readings and prayers, pupils will be invited to share in readings and/or prayers. New colleagues are supported in this role by shadowing experienced staff before leading themselves, and pupils are also guided by staff when taking part in leadership.

Our Collective Worship planning cycle follows the liturgical calendar of the church year, with Bible stories helping to illuminate our school's core Christian Vision; 'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.' Joshua 1.9. For example, in 1 Samuel 17, we look to the story of David and Goliath to remind us that we *can* learn new and difficult things, even when they feel overwhelming at first. Just as David approached something that seemed impossible, we learn to be brave, persistent, and confident in our abilities. In Matthew 2.1-12, the story of Daniel in the lion's den teaches us not to be afraid. It reminds us that courage often means standing firm, staying true to ourselves, and trusting that we can get through frightening or uncertain moments. And when we reflect on the moment when Jesus calms the storm in Mark 4.35-41, we remember that we are never alone. Our teachers, peers, friends, and family, and for some, God, are with us to steady and support us when life feels stormy.

Through Collective Worship, pupils are taught the Christian belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There are regular and frequent opportunities to explore God in different forms; that Jesus is God's Son, God is our Father and that God is available to us through the Holy Spirit. A special focal point is used during worship, which includes items such as the King James Version of the Holy Bible, artwork, and a candle, creating a reflective and sacred space. High quality resources enhance our Collective Worship, including (but not limited to) iSingPop, Roots and Fruits, and Articles of Faith. Worship is adapted when appropriate to reflect current world events, encouraging pupils to connect faith with real-life issues. We nurture spirituality through prayer, stillness, and quiet reflection, allowing members of our community time to pause and reflect.

## **Organisation**

Collective Worship at our school is carefully organised to bring our community together in a variety of meaningful ways throughout the week. Three times a week, we gather as a whole school on our premises, and once each week, our entire school community, including parents, carers, and extended family, joins together for worship at St Andrew's Church. In addition, each class holds its own Collective Worship once a week, providing more intimate opportunities for reflection and participation. In school, we create and maintain special focal points featuring the Holy Bible, Christian signs and symbols, and the use of liturgical colours to reflect the church calendar. Pupils play an active role by welcoming the community, reading from the Bible, and taking part in the sending. At church, our worship is marked by traditional elements such as the ringing of the church bells and the carrying of candles to the altar, helping to create a sacred and reverent atmosphere. We are also fortunate to have an outdoor spiritual area within our playground, offering another space for quiet reflection. Collective Worship is held at the end of each school day, typically lasting around 25 minutes, while our Friday Celebration at the church is longer, approximately 30 to 35 minutes. Special services, such as those for Easter and Christmas, may be extended further to reflect their significance.

## **Resourcing, Staff development and training**

The budget for Collective Worship is distinct from the budget for Religious Education. There is a wide selection of assembly books and artefacts which we regularly update and improve. We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. We use Essex SACRE resources, as well as RE Online, Culham St Gabriel, and termly Diocesan briefings and training.

## **Visitor Leaders to Collective Worship**

We welcome visitors to lead and participate in our Collective Worship. Visiting Collective Worship Leaders are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies which can be found [here](#).

The welcoming member of staff will discuss with the visitor, prior to the visitor leading Collective Worship, the content, expectations and practices of Collective Worship. The purpose is to ascertain its

suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

### **Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development**

We recognise that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Our Collective Worship practice is regularly reviewed half termly by the Headteacher and Senior Teacher through discussions with pupils and staff through observations and reflections. These evaluations feed into the planning and delivery of future worship.

Collective Worship is monitored by the Headteacher, CDBE Foundation Governor and the local incumbent, Revd. Terry Walker. Collective Worship, along with all aspects of worship, reflection, spirituality, and wider church school life, is consistently included in the school's annual development plans to ensure it remains a central and evolving part of our community.

### **Inclusion**

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs when appropriate.

### **Implementation of Policy**

The Headteacher, as Collective Worship Coordinator, is responsible for this policy which will be reviewed every two years. Its implementation is the responsibility of all those planning and leading Collective Worship.

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Written By:	<b>Hannah Coyle - Headteacher</b>
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Adopted By:	<b>Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School Governing Body</b>
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Review Date:

**June 2027**