



Abbots Ripton Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

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Our church school creates a firm foundation where together, with God's help and with the help of others, we learn for life, achieve our best and grow in faith.

Here at Abbots Ripton Church of England Primary School, Collective Worship represents a powerful way to develop and establish our school vision for all children to, 'grow in faith'.

A Legal Requirement of a Church School

All schools must provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. The Collective Worship guidance Collective Worship Guidance from the Church of England, states that collective worship *'is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.'* The guidance suggests that worship should be *'intentional, inclusive and inspiring.'*

Arrangements for collective worship in a Voluntary Aided School are the responsibility of the governors in consultation with the Head teacher. There are three main legal requirements for collective worship:

- Collective worship in a church school should be carried out in accordance with the school's founding Trust Deed, and in accordance with the statutory instrument of Government for Voluntary Aided Schools
- The act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or classes
- A statement must be shared with parents which makes it clear that they may withdraw their children from collective worship. This statement can be found in this policy. Should children be withdrawn, the school must provide adequate supervision to ensure their safety

It is important to note that Worship in our school is more than just a legal requirement; it is an integral part of school life and central to our school vision.

Intent and purpose of Collective Worship at Abbots Ripton School

Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. In Abbots Ripton CE School children, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. Many children and staff will come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Children will be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. They should be given the opportunity to think and ask questions. It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those leading worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching.

The aims and purposes of Collective Worship at our school are:

- To enable children to *'grow in faith'*.
- To highlight and nurture spirituality through experiencing corporate worship.
- To provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an ecumenical experience of a wide variety of worship, including experiences from Christians around the world.
- To grow in liturgical understanding.
- To provide an opportunity for reflection.
- To establish, explore and reinforce the Christian values of the school.
- To join together to celebrate Christian festivals.
- To enable the children to appreciate their unique worth and value to God, and to the community, and to respect the integrity of all the individuals as a child of God.
- To celebrate gifts, talents and achievements.
- To provide an opportunity to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, particularly the church.
- To provide an opportunity to bring before God in prayer, personal needs and those of others.

Organisation and Planning of Collective Worship

The Senior Leadership Team coordinate the planning of collective worship in school, and there is a designated 'Faith Matters Committee' who supports them in this role. Faith Matters meet on a termly basis and support the leadership and monitoring of collective worship.

Collective Worship is organised as follows:

Monday – Whole School centred round a focus value led by the Head teacher

Tuesday – Whole school centred round the Church of England Lectionary and the liturgical year led by our vicar

Wednesday – Whole School Singing Worship

Thursday – Class based worship led by class teachers and pupils

Friday – Celebration Assembly

We take the half termly themes of our collective worship from **key** values of the Christian faith; Love, Respect, Peace, Hope, Faithfulness, Perseverance, Compassion, Thankfulness, Courage, Forgiveness, Generosity/Service, Justice, Trust and Truthfulness. These can be seen displayed in the corridor of our school and the focus value each half term is displayed alongside images and bible references which reflect the value. We endeavour to nurture these in our children and we hope the impact of the teaching of these, will flourish in the children as they journey through school and life.

Our planning also reflects the cycle of the Anglican Church Year, and includes Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost. A more detailed outline of collective worship themes, including our vision, can be seen in our overview of collective worship for the school year.

Pupils are involved in leading collective worship. This may include saying greetings and responses, lighting a candle, saying a prayer during the time together or by leading the singing of a song. Children in Years 5 and 6, also plan their class collective worship and deliver this to their peers over the course of a term. We use our school prayer and the Lord's Prayer regularly in worship.

We hold a daily act of worship in our school hall or in classrooms which includes all members of staff. Our worship spaces have key Christian symbols such as crosses and candles. The hall space has an altar that is dressed in the appropriate colour of the church calendar as well as a cross and candle. We have a weekly timetable to allow for a range of worship experiences.

Our liturgical structure is 'gathering, engaging, responding and sending,' and we use Anglican call and responses regularly, to support the 'gathering' and 'ending' of our time together. In class KS1 children use the resource 'Flippin' Praise' to support this.

We use varying types of worship experiences, which may include prayer, music, silence, Bible reading, stories, dance, puppets and songs. An appropriate atmosphere is created by using music and candles. We give our children time to reflect on what they have heard and encourage them to respond in some way.

On a Friday, our worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. This 'Celebration Assembly' offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their successes both in and out of school. This plays an important part in promoting the vision of the school, which is that all children are unique and valued, and each can be encouraged to achieve their best.

We hold collective acts of worship on festival days throughout the school year at St Andrews Church, Abbots Ripton. At Easter and Christmas, and the end of the school year, parents and friends of Abbots Ripton School, are invited to join with our school community to celebrate.

We have a budget set for collective worship resources and training for worship leaders in school.

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the 'Faith Matters Committee' to monitor the policy, planning and practice of Collective Worship regularly. Planning is evaluated on a regular basis and we welcome school governors to our collective worship at any time. We have a link governor that is responsible for feedback, evaluation and monitoring of collective worship which is done termly in school.

There are opportunities for children to feedback on the collective worship theme and children are also asked about their thoughts on Collective Worship yearly through a questionnaire, and these evaluations are used to inform planning and practice.

Right of withdrawal

We have an inclusive ethos in our school and like all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending an act of worship. Following discussion with the Headteacher, the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of a child during this period of time. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This is as established in the 1944 Education Act and reinforced in this policy.

The Head teacher keeps a record of all children who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Signed:

Date: