



Collective Worship

Review Cycle;	Annual
Responsible group:	Headteacher and LGB
Implementation date:	September 2017
Next Review Date:	September 2024

Small steps to big dreams

Mark 4: 30-32

Vision

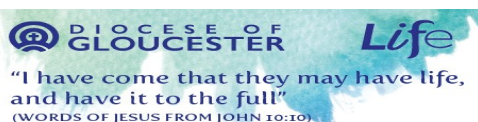
We aim to provide educational excellence inspired by the world around us. To develop curious, responsible and confident learners within a caring community, in partnership with our families, upholding our Christian Values.

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Written in partnership with SW Area Diocesan Advisors

Bishops Staff Team, Diocese of Gloucester

Amendments made by Headteacher and R.E. Subject Lead



**"I have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full"**
(WORDS OF JESUS FROM JOHN 10:10)

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Name of School: Clearwater C of E Primary Academy

School's Vision:

Small steps to big dreams

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

"The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, the tiniest seed you can sow. But after that seed is planted, it grows into the largest plant in the garden, a plant so big that birds can build their nests in the shade of its branches"

Mark 4: 30-32

Vision

We aim to provide educational excellence inspired by the world around us. To develop curious, responsible and confident learners within a caring community, in partnership with our families, upholding our Christian Values.

Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at anytime in the school day and in any groupings. 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 in Clearwater C of E Primary Academy should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The Governing Body of the academy in partnership with the Multi-Academy Trust have the responsibility for ensuring that the academy 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 headteacher.

School Statement on Collective Worship

In Clearwater C of E Primary Academy worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the academy's vision.

Small steps to big dreams

Mark 4: 30-32

Vision

We aim to provide educational excellence inspired by the world around us. To develop curious, responsible and confident learners within a caring community, in partnership with our families, upholding our Christian Values.

Collective Worship enables pupils and adults to come together to think about the Christian values and the world around them in a caring community. We think of ourselves as the tiny mustard seed that will grow and develop into a beautiful tree. Pupils and adults are encouraged through worship focused on our Christian values to grow spiritually into the best that they can be and to have great aspirations for themselves and the world.

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.

However, in Clearwater C of E Academy the purpose of collective worship will be to lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

“Worship in (CofE) schools promotes theological and Religious Literacy and liberates participants to an imagining of a different order of justice, mercy and hope”¹

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 faiths²) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.³ Collective Worship in our school is invitational, inspirational and inclusive.

Aims and Guiding Principles

Collective worship in Clearwater C of E Primary Academy aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the academy.
- 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

¹ CEE Vision statement “Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good” Autumn 2016

² Collective Worship in a CofE school must be in alignment with the religious foundation of the school (Christian), however there is a responsibility for schools in all contexts to mark, respond and learn from the festivals of other faiths. This may be designated as a separate act, not to be conflated with collective worship.

³ “To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”. William Temple (1881-1894)

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.
- Provide an opportunity to experience the Eucharist through an agreed service or experience (agreed with the local vicar and the Diocese of Gloucester)
- 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 known Christian prayers.
- 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.

We are privileged to welcome pupils to our school from all faiths and none and from diverse cultures and lifestyles. Our collective worship is open to all, providing an opportunity to share in an experience which is emotional, reflective and invites the community to explore life through the lens of our vision and values. Pupils and adults are invited to engage in worship without compulsion and in a way that never compromises their integrity or dignity. Pupils and adults who attend an act of collective worship are invited to join in with praying and singing with the option for quiet reflection if they prefer. We aim for our worship to be creative, active and inspirational by giving our pupils opportunities to listen to and act out stories, to listen to music and sing, pray and have time to reflect.

Organisation

Leadership

- Daily Collective Worship is led by the headteacher, staff, children, visiting clergy and the Open the Book Team.
- The local vicar supports and leads collective worship in partnership with the school on a regular basis, including additional services in the church throughout the church's year.
- The local vicar supports leaders of collective worship to develop their understanding of Christian theology, the teachings of the Bible and develop a deeper understanding of Anglican traditions and liturgy.
- It is the responsibility of the academy to ensure that visitors are given appropriate background information to help them prepare worship. This will include the nature of collective worship in the academy; the theme of the proposed worship i.e. the Christian value in focus and any other information relating to subject matter; the age range of the pupils; the length of the collective worship; the resources available for use and an understanding that they are not there to proselytise. An information leaflet produced by the Diocese is given to visitors who are leading worship.

Planning

A termly plan for worship is collated by the headteacher around the academy's core Christian values of Respect, Joy, Community, Responsibility, Compassion and Courage.

Worship Leaders	
Monday – Values	Mrs Moss
Tuesday - Values	Class teachers
Wednesday- Worshipful Praise	Class teachers
Thursday – Open the Book or Class reflective worship	Open the Book Team or Class Teachers
Friday -Celebration Worship	Mrs Moss

Pupils will be encouraged, when appropriate, to help to plan and/or lead worship. This may take a variety of form, including being encouraged to ask and answer questions; act or mime a story; reading poems, prayers and stories; exploring artwork or leading the music/singing. Through our focus on oracy children are encouraged to articulate their own thoughts and feelings within a Christian framework.

The children are introduced to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a symbolic framework which can begin to integrate experience. The children take part in Collective Worship that covers the following Christian festivals: - Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. We introduce our children to the worship of the Christian community around them and to participate on occasions in worship at the local Church. Our children need to feel “at home” in the church; to discover it as an interesting place to be and to find they have a significant part to play in worship.

We attend the Parish Church for some of our Services during the term.

All experiences, events and festivals can be used as opportunities for spontaneous or prepared celebrations. The teaching of Jesus is full of everyday happenings and his appeal is in his ability to relate to people's ordinary experiences. Children can understand what they can relate to their own lives.

Clearwater C of E Primary Academy have 6 core Christian values that underpin our approach to life within and outside school. Each Christian value has a related Bible reading that is discussed regularly in Collective Worship. Collective Worship is a carefully planned rotation focusing on each Christian value.

Collective worship at Clearwater C of E Academy reflects the traditions of the Church of England and develops learners' understanding of Anglican traditions and practice. Careful consideration is given to the content, approach and structure of worship. Most worship will typically contain four elements: welcome, learning, reflecting, responding. During the week there will be opportunities for celebration, including marking academy and individual pupil successes as well as celebrating the life of the wider community. Music and song will often be used as a focus for praise and worship and to support opportunities for reflection.

We will work with the local vicar and other church members to plan and deliver acts of worship that are invitational, reflective and engaging. There is plenty of flexibility in the provision of collective worship to enable all pupils to benefit without compromising their beliefs.

We enable our pupils to:

- Engage in an act of community.
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God.
- Be still and reflect.
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events.
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness.
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ.
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes.
- Share each other's joys and challenges.
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.

(Taken from the Church of England website.)

We use a range of materials and resources to plan the worship at our school and a list of these can be found in appendix.

Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and reflects the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. This includes the belief in God, the source of all being and life. Belief in Jesus who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection, and belief in the Holy Spirit, who makes the presence of Jesus known in the world. Prayer and time to reflect are part of each school day and pupils are invited to pray in a variety of creative ways. Pupils and adults are given the opportunity to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around us. We provide opportunities for pupils and adults to foster a concern for others within the academy community and wider world and encourage respect and understanding of others religious beliefs and practices.

Organisation

The pupils and adults meet together daily each morning for 20 minutes for collective worship in the school hall as a whole school. Sometimes worship takes place in class groups. We give consideration to different settings and places for worship (whether in classrooms, the local church, the school hall or an outside space) and how the worship spaces are made special. It is important that an appropriate atmosphere is created, and this can be done in variety of means, e.g. the atmosphere for worship is created by using liturgical colours of the seasons of the Church Year; Christian signs and symbols; candles; music; ritual and liturgical responses.

Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation

Worship and its impact are monitored and evaluated on a regular basis by the Headteacher and one of the Foundation governors, who then reports back to the full Governing Body. The pupils are also given opportunity to evaluate worship regularly. This information is then used to inform future planning and developments. Participants may be asked to reflect on how the worship created a sense of special time and place; the balance of the four elements of worship; opportunities to focus on matters of worth to individuals, the academy community or the wider world; a sense of occasion that allowed for an encounter with God and how particular acts of worship have made an impact on school life and practice.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Local Governing Body has the responsibility for worship in a church academy, in consultation with the Headteacher. There is an expectation that staff will be fully involved in worship in this academy and will attend acts of collective worship with pupils.

The Headteacher is responsible for co-ordinating collective worship. The co-ordinator will maintain clear forward plans and evaluate the impact of worship on the life of the community. In planning worship, the co-ordinator will consider how worship takes account of the church year, the Bible as a source book of inspiration and learning and the Church of England's commitment to ecumenism and dialogue with other faiths. They will also consider the range and variety of materials used, including different leaders; visitors; outside groups; websites; artefacts; stories; artwork; music; film clips and focal points e.g. a picture or candle.

Pupils understand their role within the school community from the start of their journey at Clearwater C of E Academy. The youngest pupils are welcomed and invited to join in collective worship from the time they start school and very quickly understand what is expected of them.

Parents and carers are invited to collective worship during the school year in school and at the local church and can access the collective worship policy on the school website. They are informed on induction that collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school.

Visitors are invited to join in collective worship when in school and given clear guidance if they are to take the collective worship.

Staff Development and Training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. Additionally, support and guidance are provided for visitors and the clergy who lead collective worship. Regular attendance by the RE Subject Leader at Illuminate sessions ensures that staff are kept up to date with key national and local church developments.

The Right of Withdrawal from 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.

In Clearwater C of E Primary Academy there are significant numbers of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non- religious world view.

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 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.)

Development and Sharing of the Policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

This policy was developed as a model policy by the Diocese of Gloucester. The Head Teacher and R.E. Subject Lead amended the policy taking into consideration the previous worship policy, guidance document from Gloucester Diocese, information from the Church of England website and guidance published by Guildford Diocesan Board of Education.

Links to other policies and documentation

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Diocesan Collective Worship Guidance Document.

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community
- We also ensure that information about collective worship is included in the school on the school website.

Appendix

Resources for Worship

iSingPOP Classroom Worship
Experience series
No Piano for Assemblies CD's
Imaginer Jack In The Box
Imaginer Oscar Out Of The Box
SPCK Assemblies website
Spinnaker Assemblies website