



Ancaster

Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Vision Statement

In the spirit of St. Martin, the Centurion Saint, we are a welcoming and inclusive community where every individual is celebrated. As we journey together through exploration and learning, our curriculum strives to promote local and global citizens who realise they have the power to change. Our high expectations for all, underpinned by our core Christian values of Wisdom, Courage and Respect, allow us to challenge everybody to be the best they can be.

Be the Best You Can Be!

Wisdom Courage Respect

Date policy last reviewed:

April 2025

Date of next review: April 2027

Christian Values

Ancaster Church of England Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled Primary School. In addition to the national legal requirement that there should be daily worship, as a church school, we have a Trust Deed which states that worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England' and in accordance with the School Ethos Statement in the statutory Instrument of Government. Collective Worship takes place every day for all pupils. Members of staff are expected to attend the act of collective worship. At Ancaster Church of England Primary School, our values of Wisdom, Courage and Respect permeate through all aspects of our school life and are promoted within our curriculum.

Entitlement

All pupils, other than those withdrawn by their parents are entitled to a daily act of Collective Worship. This should be appropriate to the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of pupils. As a Church of England School, Ancaster Church of England Primary School pupils shall be given Collective Worship in accordance with the doctrine of the Church of England within the meaning of the Education Acts of 1944 and 1988 and the Trust Deed of the school. The purpose of this document is to inform Governors, Staff and Parents of the ethos of the school which underpins pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Cultural and Social Development. Parents who wish to withdraw their children from the attendance of Collective Worship should consult the Head teacher. Teachers may withdraw from participation in Collective Worship but may be required to supervise children, who are excused attendance.

Core Concepts of Collective Worship

At Ancaster CE Primary School, Collective Worship is a highly valued part of the school day when we gather together to affirm what is important to us, to our school and to our world. The aim of collective worship is to develop pupils socially, morally, spiritually and culturally. Here, the school affirms the claims of Christianity underlying the values of the school and representing the faith stance of some teachers and children. It provides an opportunity for pupils to worship God, whilst seeking to be relevant to, and inclusive, of all. It reflects our Anglican tradition as well as exploring with pupils and staff a variety of ways in which Christians worship God.

In acts of Collective Worship, it is recognised that in our school community, some members will come from families with a commitment to the Christian faith, others from families with a commitment to another faith and yet others will have no particular commitment to any tradition.

Therefore the content and language of collective worship allows for different levels of response. It invites rather than coerces.

Collective worship at Ancaster Church of England Primary School gives pupils the chance to –

- think about God
- offer adoration, praise and thanksgiving to God
- explore personal belief
- feel a sense of belonging to a group that shares and celebrates together, as well as being thoughtful or sad together
- reflect upon ourselves and our lives as seen as part of a bigger picture
- explore our agreed common language of spirituality
- learn about different ways of worshipping and about imagery and symbolism.
- learn about the faith of the local church community
- explore the Christian values of the school; Wisdom, courage and respect
- understand the Trinity – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit
- use stillness and quietness
- consider spiritual questions and allow pupils to ask their own questions
- celebrate gifts, talents and achievements
- promote the key British values of: respect, tolerance, liberty, law, democracy and freedom.

Collective Worship is an inclusive part of the school day where pupils of all ages, aptitudes and backgrounds participate. The integrity of each is respected; enabling children to explore and evaluate their beliefs. There are also times where worship is shared with parents, governors and members of the local community.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place daily, usually in the school hall at 2:55pm, to the whole school. It is the responsibility of all teaching staff, the Senior Leadership Team and the Rector of the Parish to lead Collective Worship on a rotational basis. Celebration Worship takes place every Friday, where parents are invited to observe their child receiving a certificate. Appropriate music is chosen by the music subject leader to reflect the themes of collective worship. A choral worship is enjoyed each Monday. Parents are invited to attend special acts of worship such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter Worships, Class Sharing Worships and our Leavers' Worship as well as opportunities to share learning throughout the year; these are held in school or at St. Martin's Church.

The Planning of Collective Worship

Each full term there is an overarching theme for collective worship which is rooted in Christian Values. Our worship's follow the Christian calendar and incorporate a variety of opportunities to explore multi-faith worldviews. Those leading worship are provided with a planning structure, taken from the Diocese of Guildford Collective Worship resource bank, and are also provided with a pro-forma PowerPoint, to ensure that each worship adheres to the required format. Our worships are also supplemented using the Roots and Fruits resources when required.

On occasions it is recognised that those leading worship may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

All those leading collective worship are asked to plan their act of worship in as much detail as they would any other learning activity.

The Content of Collective Worship

Our collective worship consists of 4 stages:

- 1) **Gather**- We welcome the community with music, liturgy and the lighting of our three worship candles.
- 2) **Engage** - We share story/reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the message.
- 3) **Respond**- Pupils discuss, share, reflect and wonder. They are then invited to pray and sing.
- 4) **Send**- We share the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with music and the blowing out of our worship candles.

As we are an Anglican school, we reflect aspects of Anglican worship in the following ways:

- We use the Bible as a source of Christian teaching and give it a prominent place in our worship.
- We follow the cycle of the Anglican year, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost and some saints' days.
- We use Christian symbols and artefacts, exploring their meaning for Christians.
- Anglican prayers and hymns.
- Our worship follows a liturgical pattern, for example gathering, engaging and responding.
- Using Anglican sentences and responses, for example 'We have gathered in the name of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit'.

The Management of Collective Worship

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met, but the head teacher has the statutory accountability for ensuring that collective worship takes place. The nominated person with specific responsibility for collective worship in our school is Fiona Green. We liaise with Reverend Georgie Machell from St Martin's church, Ancaster in the planning, monitoring and evaluating of collective worship.

Arrangements for Recording, Monitoring and Evaluating Collective Worship

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the headteacher, collective worship lead and foundation governors (foundation governors monitor collective worship on a termly basis and then feed back to the governing body).

Useful strategies for collecting the evidence will include:

- written observations; checking that practice matches planning
- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback
- seeking feedback from children- worship monitors in KS2 complete evaluations weekly, pupil voice is regularly gained from KS1, and collective worship is regularly on the agenda for school council meetings.
- seeking feedback from staff, parents, governors and visitors
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- holding regular discussions with colleagues

The information gathered via the strategies listed above will be analysed carefully in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the collective worship. The collective worship lead, headteacher and foundation governors, will be the main evaluators.

Background Documentation

In drawing up this policy the following documents were consulted:

- The Trust Deed of Ancaster Church of England (Controlled) Primary School
- The National Society's Booklet, "The Voluntary Controlled School"
- The Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education's Governor Training Booklet, "Writing a Policy for Collective Worship"
- Circular 1/94 R.E. & Collective Worship
- SACRE "Collective Worship in Community Primary Schools Guidance and Advice"