

FEDERATION OF ST. NICHOLAS C OF E MIDDLE SCHOOL, PINVIN, AND
PINVIN C OF E FIRST SCHOOL



POLICY ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

SC13

Date approved at FGB	Spring 2021
Statutory/ school policy status	Non-DfE statutory
Review period	2 years
Date of next review	Spring 2022

Chair of Governor's signature.....

Headteacher's signature.....

This policy takes account of the framework for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools (SIAS) and the handbook of Church School Leadership published by the Church of England.

Whilst recognising that both schools in the Pinvin Federation, St. Nicholas C.E. Middle School and Pinvin C.E. First School, are of the Church of England foundation, the community which now surrounds them contains other world religions, denominations of the Christian faith other than Anglican and those of no faith. However, we recognise that our Anglican background does give us access to useful resources and traditions of prayer and patterns of worship. Our nearby church, St. Nicholas church, is used for the observance of major festivals and occasions in the school year.

Our aim in Collective Worship is to build upon and further stimulate the children's innate sense of awe and wonder, to help them develop their spirituality and embed the Christian values that distinguish our school from those around us. It is this focus that reflects the Christian ethos of the Pinvin Federation.

Aims

St. Nicholas C.E. Middle School and Pinvin C.E. First School are voluntary controlled schools set with a mixed catchment serving the village of Pinvin, surrounding villages and the town of Pershore. This policy aims to ensure that all associated with our school community recognise the place of Worship in our school and the ways in which we use and promote Worship. We believe that Collective Worship plays a significant part in achieving our aims which are to:

- Develop in our children an understanding of Christianity and the place of God in our world and in our lives;
- Provide each child with the ultimate learning experience to enable them to achieve the highest standards;
- Inspire a love of lifelong learning;
- Equip our children with the skills and tools to become global citizens;
- Equip our children to deal with change;
- Respect individuality and celebrate diversity;
- Motivate and enable all to achieve their personal best;
- Create a safe and trusting environment where children are encouraged to express opinions, be independent learners, take responsibility, and improve by learning from their experiences;
- Praise all types of achievement;
- Create in all a sense of belonging.

The aim of Collective Worship at the Pinvin Federation is to:

- Develop in every child a knowledge of the enormity of God's love for them (Ephesians 3:18);
- Develop in our children an understanding of Christianity and the place of God in our world and in our lives;
- Provide opportunities to worship God and experience the concepts of reverence, celebration and reflection;
- Give children a knowledge of the Bible;
- Contribute to children's spiritual, moral and cultural development;
- Enable the children to reflect on Christian values and beliefs;
- Be inclusive, fostering a sense of community and unity in the school;
- Develop in the children a sense of beauty, awe and wonder;
- Provide meaningful experiences which take account of children's age, ability and family background;

- Foster in the children an approach of enquiry and tolerance towards people of other faiths and those with no faith, by encouraging children's sharing and understanding of them.

Collective Worship should:

1. Explore and share beliefs;
2. Consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence;
3. Consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives;
4. Think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community;
5. Appreciate the importance religious beliefs to those who hold them;
6. Re-affirm, interpret and put into practice the values of our school;
7. Celebrate the various achievements of members of the community that are held to be of worth. SCAA Spiritual and Moral development 1995

Organisation

The act of Collective Worship at St. Nicholas Middle School and Pinvin C.E. First School is led by the Head Teacher, Senior Leadership Team, members of staff, pupils, local clergy or invited visitors. In addition, Collective Worship takes place at the local St. Nicholas church or Pershore Abbey on special occasions such as Easter and Christmas. All children (unless withdrawn by their parent/guardian) attend the daily act of Collective Worship which lasts for approximately 20 minutes.

The Collective Worship leaders in both schools are responsible for the day to day organisation of Collective Worship, resourcing, and meeting any identified training needs. Foundation governors monitor Collective Worship and support the Collective Worship leaders in planning for its improvement.

Whole school Collective Worship is planned half termly by Collective Worship leaders. Copies of this planning is shared with teaching staff. Planning includes the theme, the title, and the worship song/hymn. The format of worship follows the ritual of:



Welcome



Learning



Reflecting



Responding

We recognise the difference between Collective Worship and 'Assembly' in that Collective Worship is always distinctly Christian in its context and offers opportunities for children to worship God, pray and reflect. It also contributes significantly to the life and wellbeing of the school by focusing on the Federations six core values – wisdom, hope, dignity, community, joy and peace.

Collective Worship is based on our Federation Christian Values and the life of Jesus to further embed the Christian ethos within both schools. Thursday assemblies are based on whole school PSHE themes, celebrations and topical issues (i.e. praying for other countries, world leaders, their area or their town).

Structure

The act of Collective Worship is used as a vehicle for spiritual development and 'everyone' should come into the hall in silence. Music which is played at the beginning and end of the assembly is chosen to create an atmosphere and inspire the children to want to listen. Mindfulness activities are used for Worship to help children develop their spiritual being. Staff endeavour to create a suitable atmosphere with music, colour, different fragrances and interesting displays. The format for Worship is:

Entrance to music
Welcome and lighting the candle
Learning
Hymn or song
Reflecting
Responding
Prayer
Exit to music

Visitors

We welcome the input of visitors to our Collective Worship times. The rectors of our local church (Reverend Clare and Reverend Steve) lead Collective Worship regularly both in and out of school. Visitors from other local churches or representatives of various charities also support worship as key contributors to underpinning key Christian values

Focus

A variety of visual aids are used in Collective Worship. These may include pictures, links to the internet, power point presentations, artefacts, a 'special' box. It is hoped the children engage with the message inherent in the Worship or assembly when their interest is aroused. A candle is always used when the children are asked to create a silence for the act of Worship. Leaders work hard to create opportunities for children to feel 'awe and wonder' and develop their spirituality.

Worship group/CREW

In St. Nicholas C.E. Middle School, the CREW group is led by Helen Hadley and involves representatives from year groups 5 to 7. In Pinvin C.E. First School, the Worship group is led by Nic Harvey and involves representatives from year groups 3 and 4. They are nominated at the beginning of the year by class teachers and the senior leadership team members. The Worship group/CREW:

- Meet each week to help plan Worship;
- They plan and lead their own act of Worship;

- The members of the Worship group help Worship Leaders with the organisation and delivery of Worship;
- The Worship group attend Worship forums which give them the opportunity to meet with other Worship groups to share ideas and experiences and to talk to church representatives.

Equal Opportunities

We endeavour to ensure that Collective Worship offers equal opportunities to all as set out in the school's Equal Opportunities Policy. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from any act of Worship within the school and are able to do so in writing to the Headteacher. This right is also stated in our prospectus.

Dissemination of the policy

Each member of staff has a copy of this policy and a copy can be found on the Federation website. The school prospectus contains a statement about Collective Worship and the right of parents to withdraw their child from it. A copy of the policy is available to any current or prospective parent, on request to the Headteacher.

Monitoring and evaluation of the policy

This policy is reviewed annually.

COVID 19 Addendum

Due to the restraints created by COVID 19 and by following Government guidance, the decision has been made for all Collective Worship to be class based during the pandemic. The Collective Worship leaders have created new plans for class based Collective Worship during 2020-21 so that staff have a clear structure to follow. The plans are used in both St. Nicholas C.E. Middle School and Pinvin C.E. First School and follow the structure below:

- * Monday and Tuesday – Class based Worship based on the life and teaching of Jesus. The focus is on one of our school values.
- * Wednesday – Class based assembly based on PSHE themes, celebrations and topical issues.
- * Thursday – Class based Worship based on a reflection of the focus value of the week.
- * Friday – Whole school celebration assembly where awards are presented to celebrate children's achievements including awards for curriculum work, attendance and demonstrating our core Christian values. This is virtual or prerecorded.

During the pandemic, visitors are not permitted to come into school and so Reverend Clare and Reverend Steve deliver some virtual Worship. Unfortunately, it is also not possible to run the Worship/CREW groups as it would involve the mixing of class bubbles.

Every classroom has the school values clearly displayed and staff refer to them throughout the school day. Class based opportunities to incorporate prayer at snack time, lunch time and at the end of the school day are maintained and are also included on Google classroom slides as part of remote learning.

During lockdown, home-school value activities are shared with families on Google classroom with some suggestions of activities they can undertake as a family based on one of our school values. Evidence can be uploaded and will receive feedback.

Collective Worship protocol

Time together in Collective Worship is more than just a coming together. As a Church of England Federation, the expectation is that everyone involved gives the occasion appropriate respect and reverence and that 'we' worship together to learn about Christian values in the context of a growing knowledge of the Bible. These values of Wisdom, Hope, Dignity, Joy, Community and Peace can also be illustrated through stories from other faiths. Ultimately, we hope that 'we all' walk these values to make 'our' schools and everyone in it, the best!

The Worship program

The act of Collective Worship will be led by the Head Teacher, Senior Leadership Team, members of staff, pupils, local clergy or invited visitors.

At St. Nicholas C.E. Middle School, the structure below is followed:

- * Monday – Whole school Worship based on the focus value for the half term. This is led by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher and includes biblical references.
- * Tuesday – Whole school Worship is based on the life and teaching of Jesus.
- * Wednesday – Whole school Worship based on a Bible story and is supported by Open the Book readers from local churches or led by Reverend Claire or Reverend Steve, visitors or CREW.
- * Thursday – Class based assembly based on PSHE themes, celebrations and topical issues.
- * Friday – Celebration assembly where awards are presented to celebrate children's achievements including awards for curriculum work, attendance and demonstrating our core Christian values.

At Pinvin C.E. First School, the structure below is followed:

- * Monday – Whole school Worship based on the focus value for the half term. This is led by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher and includes biblical references. Reverend Claire or Reverend Steve may also deliver this Collective Worship on a timetabled basis.
- * Tuesday – Whole school Worship is based on the life and teaching of Jesus.
- * Wednesday - Whole school Worship based on a Bible story and is supported by Open the Book readers from local churches or led by visitors or CREW.
- * Thursday – Class based assembly based on PSHE themes, celebrations and topical issues.
- * Friday – Celebration assembly where awards are presented to celebrate children's achievements including awards for curriculum work, attendance and demonstrating our core Christian values.

Leading

Managing a large group of children and adults (sometimes including parents) can be a challenge and the support of all school staff is helpful in ensuring the leader can 'create' the appropriate atmosphere and enhance the 'spiritual' development of the children. To this end the following should be adopted by all adults and prefects supporting 'collective worship'.

Entrance

- * Even if the children are entering the hall from the playground the expectation is that they enter in a calm quiet manner. This should be modelled and managed by all adults supporting the children as they enter the hall;

- * On no account should adults talk to one another as the children enter the hall as this undermines what the leader is trying to achieve. If you need to speak to a colleague or child take them out of the Worship space;
- * If your class arrive when there is no space in the location they usually use, please filter them in another available space. Ask an older child to lead the children through where other children may be sitting, as the older child can quietly usher anyone sitting in the way to one side. This is especially important when Worship has started.

Exiting

- * The leader may manage the exiting of each class but this may not always be possible. To assist with the safe exiting of the children, ensure the doors into the main school corridors are open;
- * Ensure you or a representative for your class come to the hall to manage the classes departure from the hall;
- * If there is a 'lull' in the departure process, take the initiative and indicate to 'your class' your readiness to lead them out – you will not offend the leader, they will be grateful;
- * Support the positive transition of the children by ensuring they leave the hall in a quiet, calm manner.

Atmosphere

- * Music is played to create the appropriate atmosphere and to signal to the children and adults that a time of quiet reflection has begun. Adults can model this and where necessary, and without creating a distraction, quieten the child. On occasion and because we all know the children well, it may be better to take individual children elsewhere for their reflection time.
- * Adults are expected, if present in the hall to participate in the Worship and a 'tried and tested' method of quietening children is to move to where they are sitting i.e. on the floor close to them. This can be more effective than removing the child from the hall;

Supporting the leader

Colleagues can support the leader by being:

- * Conscious of the 'climate' of the hall i.e. if the sun is glaring through the windows – draw the curtains, if it is too hot – open windows and doors, if the screen is being used to project a presentation – turn off the lights;
- * Aware of what the Worship group are doing and if necessary support them to 'be invisible';
- * Visible to disruptive individuals to let them know you can see what they are doing;
- * Supportive of a colleague trying to manage several 'small' children in a long session;
- * Ready to suggest a participating child has a valid contribution when the leader asks for the children to offer their thoughts etc.

Participation

Whatever your own personal beliefs or opinions as a member of the staff of a Church of England school you should be respectful of the rituals set up within the Worship structure. Whether Worship takes place in school or in church the expectation is that you take part in the Worship process by being still and silent when prayers are led, model appropriate 'Worship' behaviours, and supporting the leader throughout the process.

And the bonus is.....

If 'we' get it right, school Collective Worship can be a time in your busy day when you can have 'quiet time' to reflect, pray and rest.