



Peppard Church of England Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Approved by:	School Development Committee	Date: May 2020
Last reviewed on:	February 2024	
Next review due by:	February 2026	

‘Encourage one another and build each other up.’

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Paul wanted to give the church community hope, and to encourage them to keep on living kind and generous lives. This is what we aim for all community members of Peppard.

We aim to provide the best opportunities and experiences for all in our school, so that they can achieve fully and become life-long learners. We nurture our children in a Christian atmosphere so that each individual child works together to make a positive difference to their community by living kind and generous lives.

Worship is an important part of the school day. It gives us the opportunity to come together as a whole school community to learn, reflect and act. It is attended by all pupils and staff, and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

Aims

It is our aim at Peppard School that worship should: -

- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each all
- Give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community.
- Allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings.
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school and in the local community and mark occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Foster a concern for the needs of others and a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- Help pupils to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that ‘all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship’. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

To provide pupils with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the head teacher.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. Broadly Christian means:-

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, e.g. The Sermon on the Mount.
- Sharing with pupils the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship at Peppard School take into account the pupils' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and an assembly, in that the Collective Worship is always distinctly Christian and offers opportunities for children to worship God, pray and reflect. On some occasions assembly may precede or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image on the interactive whiteboard or a moment of silence and reflection.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Peppard School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher/worship co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for pupils withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish to exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Peppard School.

This right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies.

Organisation

Collective Worship takes place in different forms every day. The whole school meets five times a week for collective worship.

Monday	Collective Worship linked to our value
Tuesday	Singing Collective Worship
Wednesday	Reflection Worship
Thursday	Collective Worship linked to our value
Friday	Celebration Collective Worship (Starbook)

Each collective worship session will have the following format:

- Welcome

- Learning
- Reflection
- Response

In addition, there are services at special times of the year for the whole school community. They are held at All Saints' Church.

Autumn	Harvest, Remembrance, Advent, Christingle
Spring	Epiphany, Lent, Easter
Summer	Pentecost, Leavers Celebration

There is a Worship Council who meet regularly to support the organisation and development of worship in the school. They write prayers and can decide on hymns and music for collective worship and Church services.

The head teacher is responsible for the day to day organisation of Collective Worship, resourcing, and meeting any identified training needs. The Foundation Governors, participate in the monitoring of Collective Worship and in planning for its improvement.

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective Worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

There is a value for each term that links to most collective worship.

Children are also encouraged to lead worship, through the Worship Council

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

Each person leading worship, is asked to plan his or her act of worship in as much detail as they would any learning activity. The Worship Council can help with this.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on Collective Worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. The Worship Council regularly seeks the views of their classmates and reports these findings to the Headteacher.

We ensure that our church school status is reflected in the displays and atmosphere in our classrooms.