

Folksworth Church of England (VC) Primary School

# Collective Worship Policy



Inspiring a love of learning through  
the bonds of family, faith and friendship.

**Date: September 2023**

**Review date: September 2025**

'We believe that all people are unique and of equal worth. As part of God's family everyone is nurtured, valued and respected. We provide a safe community where we give everyone the fullest opportunity to be the very best they can be.'  
*(school vision statement)*

## **Aims**

Our fundamental aim at Folksworth C of E Primary School is to provide the best possible education for all our pupils. It is our aim to provide a creative and stimulating curriculum through which children develop to their full potential and are inspired with a love of learning.

It is the aim of the school to place a high value on diversity, treating every member of the school community as an individual, and meeting the needs of all, taking account of gender, ethnicity, culture, religion, language, sexual orientation, age ability, disability and social circumstances.

Collective Worship at Folksworth C of E Primary School is identifiably Christian, providing opportunities for members of the school to explore their beliefs and develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery as part of their spiritual development. There is a close relationship between spiritual and moral development.

Through our daily act of Collective Worship we aim to:

- provide an opportunity for the children to reflect upon and appreciate their worth and value to God, and to the community;
- help children discover their place in the world;
- highlight and nurture the spiritual dimension through experiencing worship;
- provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of its variety of forms;
- provide an opportunity to celebrate Christian festivals;
- heighten awareness of the ultimate questions/realities of life and to provide the opportunity to reflect upon these;
- enable children to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer;
- establish and reinforce the common Christian values of the school community such as love, peace, kindness and compassion;
- promote a feeling of community in the school through a sharing of experiences and feelings;
- provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs, feelings and experiences of others;
- provide an opportunity for children to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, particularly the church;
- encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues;
- foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy;
- give memorable and enjoyable experiences;
- provide an opportunity to bring before God in prayer personal needs and those of others.

### Entitlement to Worship

Every child is entitled to a daily act of Collective Worship. However, parents have the right to withdraw their child from acts of Collective Worship on religious grounds. Notification of this should be sent to the Headteacher in writing. An adult will supervise any child withdrawn from Collective Worship.

### Implementation

Collective Worship includes whole school acts led by the Headteacher, Class teachers and the Incumbent of our Parish (or their representative). The participation of the children is encouraged through a range of activities in any given act of worship.

The timetable for Collective Worship is generally as follows:

Day	Group	Venue	Time	Leader
Monday	Whole School	Hall	9:00am	Class Teacher
Tuesday	Whole School	Hall	9:00am	Clergy
Wednesday	Whole School	Hall	9:00am	Class Teacher
Thursday	Whole School	Hall	9:00am	Class Teacher
Friday	Whole School Celebration Assembly	Hall	9:00am	Headteacher

- The whole school walks together to St Helen's Church for Collective Worship once each term.
- In addition to Collective Worship on a Friday we hold a 'Celebration Assembly' to recognise God's gifts through the sharing of individual and group achievements.
- When planning Collective Worship, consideration is given to balancing the overall programme of worship experiences. This ensures a variety of music, singing, reflection, story, Bible readings and prayer.
- Children are expected to enter and leave Collective Worship in a quiet and reflective manner. Music is played when entering and leaving the hall to enhance the occasion.

- The room is prepared for Collective Worship through the use of a lighted candle or object for reflection.
- Collective worship begins with visual reminders of the Trinity and a call and response.
- We have displays and Christian signs and symbols around the hall.
- The school prayer is displayed and said during times of Collective Worship.
- The Lord's Prayer is said at appropriate times during Collective Worship.
- Children evaluate Collective Worship through discussion and feedback.
- From time to time visitors are invited to lead Collective Worship. These take two forms:
  - as part of the planned programme for Collective Worship
  - as an occasional act which does not necessarily form part of the programme for Collective Worship but nevertheless provides a positive input to the worshipping community
- Our Foundation Governors take a keen interest in the worship of the school community through participation and attendance at various times during the school and liturgical year.
- Parents and other members of the community are invited to attend our special celebrations including at Harvest, Christmas and Easter.
- Each half term children in Year 1 – Year 6 take it in turns to plan and lead collective worship around a chosen theme.
- Courageous Advocacy is encouraged and recognised by the presentation of a Courageous Advocacy trophy and certificate supported by the Diocese.

### **Worship Leaders**

Each year group has a worship leader who will help with the delivery of Collective Worship. They will also lead times for reflection and prayer across the school day. This includes:

- A time for reflection and prayer before lunch.
- A time for reflection before dismissal at the end of the day.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

Collective Worship is monitored in a range of ways. These include:

- Questionnaires to children and parents relating to all aspects of Collective Worship.
- Foundation Governor visits to the school to see Collective Worship and report to the Governing Body.
- Informal feedback from children after times of Collective Worship
- RE subject leader monitoring of pupil voice

Findings from all of these are looked at by children, staff and Governors and changes made as necessary.

This policy is reviewed every two years.

