



Risby CEVC Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Prepared by:	Soo Miller Headteacher
Approved by:	Emma Curwen Chair of Governors
Signature of Chair of Governors:	
Date approved:	June 2018
Review date:	June 2020

Aims and Purposes

The aims and purposes of collective worship are 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.

Collective Worship

Worship is an important part of our school's life as it gives us the opportunity to celebrate, as well as encouraging our pupils to think about their place in the world, through Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. The daily act of Collective Worship has a special status and is distinct from R.E.

It enables children to think deeply about themselves, the world in which they live and the place that faith has in our society.

As a Church of England Primary School our Collective Worship will be in accordance with the principles and practises of the Anglican Church.

Organisation of Collective Worship

At Risby CEVC Primary School we have a daily act of Collective Worship where we meet as a school community to sing hymns, listen to stories, reflect on them and pray together. We regard Collective Worship as a special time and we expect children to behave in an appropriate way: with dignity and respect.

Collective Worship is led by our Year 6 Collective Worship team and children are collected from their classes and led into Collective Worship by Year 5 and Year 6 monitors. Collective Worship is held at the start of the day and children sing as they enter and sing as they leave. We follow the **BLESSED** practice and principles of the Church of England, ensuring all Collective Worship is:

- B:** Biblical
- L:** Liturgical
- E:** Eucharistic
- S:** Symbolic
- S:** Seasonal
- E:** Ecumenical
- D:** Diverse

The Headteacher, our local clergy, members of our local church or other members of staff regularly lead Collective Worship and our weekly collective worship timetable includes: 'Open the Book' every other Monday, a seasonal and cultural assembly once a week, a biblical assembly once a week and a singing assembly. We actively encourage our children, when willing and appropriate, to lead, take part and organise assemblies with the guidance and support of staff. Pupil voice and involvement is highly valued and, unless the person who is leading Collective Worship has their own prayer, Collective Worship always ends with a prayer from the school's prayer book: written by a pupil and read by a pupil.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We invite parents to special services such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children. Parents and children are also encouraged to join us, and other local church schools, when we participate in events such as Pentecost and Epiphany at St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of a named school governor (Mrs Sarah Geileskey) with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.