



Steeple Morden C of E (VC) Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

"I was lost, but now I am found", Luke 15:24

Rationale

This Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school's aims, ethos and values and demonstrates the partnership between the conduct and content of school worship and the ethos of the whole school.

At Steeple Morden C of E Primary School, we consider Collective Worship to be a significant part of spiritual development as it reflects and explores the school's distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and spiritual well-being of all learners. It is a time when we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements.

Therefore, Collective Worship at Steeple Morden C of E Primary School is planned to:

- Be inspirational and inclusive. It aims to engage all learners who should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school;
- Regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching which will explore and relate to the school's core Christian values;
- Have a strong focus on the person of Jesus Christ and his position central to the Christian faith;
- Help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- Challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of prayer, reflection and stillness;
- Contribute significantly to pupil's "spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, and something to respond to;
- Be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals;
- Have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity;
- Support all members of the school community to spiritually flourish in ways that they feel comfortable to explore.

Inclusion

Steeple Morden C of E Primary School is a school for everyone, regardless of beliefs. Therefore, during Collective Worship, we are always sensitive to the very wide range of backgrounds and beliefs represented by our school community. This includes:

- Those who have, or who come from families with, Christian commitment and belief
- Parents who have chosen a church school (or who support its ethos) because they wish their children to experience something of the Christian faith
- Members of other faith or world view communities
- Those who may not share in any particular religious belief

Aims

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at Steeple Morden C of E Primary School include opportunities for:

- The whole community to celebrate;
- Sharing and experiencing differences;
- Developing a culture of learning;
- Building a sense of group identity;

- Encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- A break from the busyness and pressures of life (for stillness and quiet);
- Learning how to behave in a large social group;
- Exploring feelings and emotions;
- Learning how to perform in front of an audience and learning how to respond to a performance;
- Making visible the school's leadership;
- Developing inner awareness;
- Valuing self and the views and opinions of others;
- Promoting fundamental British values.
- Developing a sense of community spirit
- To unite as a Church School family
- For opportunities to spiritually flourish

Legal requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation. Schools are obliged to give their reasons if they feel they are not able to comply with this part of the law. The School meets this requirement and this is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship however, in such circumstances, parents are encouraged to discuss their reasons for withdrawal with the Headteacher. The school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. The Headteacher will keep a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship in our school. This forms part of each morning assembly, which takes the form of a whole school collective worship daily.

We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that collective worship is a period of calm reflection and stillness. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We invite them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, candles or other objects (like we see in Anglican practice) that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

We take the themes of our collective worships from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our collective worships reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. Our collective worship curriculum is designed to promote spiritual growth and moral development, helping students to develop a sense of belonging and connection to one another and to the wider community. Through a variety of engaging activities, including prayer, storytelling, and songs, we foster an atmosphere of reverence and respect. This curriculum supports our mission to 'look after the flock', ensuring no individual is 'lost', encouraging them to explore their own beliefs while learning about and respecting the diverse perspectives of others.

Our collective worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. Our weekly Celebration Collective Worship, embodies all of our values, of excellence and offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. This includes an act of worship in which we thank God for our range of talents and gifts. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and given the opportunity to show they are living our vision of 'Be brave, be kind, be the best you can be'.

Steeple Morden C of E Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the excellence of all the children in worship. Whole school Celebration collective worship is held on a Friday, the school gathers for this worship, in which the achievements of pupils at the school are celebrated, including highlighting ways in which children have demonstrated living our values of Resilience, Compassion and Excellence through our 'Stars of the Week' awards. This worship will normally provide opportunities for spiritual development.

We actively engage with our local church and the clergy within our parish, working together to participate in key festivals and events in the Christian calendar, alongside welcoming members of the clergy into school to lead acts of worship.

Day	School Involvement	Lead by
Monday	Whole School	Headteacher
Tuesday	Whole School – Sing & Praise	CS/MB
Wednesday	Whole School	Teacher rotation
Thursday	Whole School	Assistant Head (DB)
Friday	Whole School Celebration	Deputy Head

Themes

We have devised our own collective worship curriculum, influenced by the Diocese of Ely Collective Worship collection, with a range of resources and links to other sites.

Our Christian values of resilience, compassion and excellence form the basis of our worship and wider school life. Care is taken to ensure that understanding of each value is rooted in the Bible and the example of Jesus through the parables of The Wise and Foolish Builders (resilience), The Good Samaritan (compassion) and The Talents (excellence). These are all underpinned by the parable of The Lost Sheep and our vision that no individual in our school community will get 'lost' and that the adults working in our school are the shepherds ensuring the flock is able to flourish and be 'the best they can be'.

We have added in significant dates in the Christian year and days of particular importance such as Remembrance Day and Harvest Festival. Themes for collective worship are planned by the Headteacher using the Diocese of Ely themes for guidance.

Monitoring and review

The monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship forms part of the school's programme of monitoring. This is done through:

- Formal observations of Acts of Collective Worship led by a range of leaders;
- Pupil discussion groups with the Headteacher, collective worship lead or Governor;
- Informal observations of how pupils are putting the messages from Collective Worship into practice.

The school's governors have a role monitoring Collective Worship. The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by the Collective Worship co-ordinator (the Headteacher). We welcome governor attendance at our collective worships at any time.

Approved by the Governing Body: October 2024

Next Review: October 2025