

# Cavendish CE Primary School Collective Worship Policy



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# Collective Worship Policy

## Our Vision

*We Learn, We Love, We Belong*

**“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”**

*Psalm 51:10*

At Cavendish C of E Primary School, our vision of *We Learn, We Love, We Belong* is rooted in the Christian values of compassion, inclusion, respect and spiritual growth. We believe that every child should experience high-quality learning within a nurturing and supportive environment where they feel valued, inspired and connected.

Through collective worship, we encourage children to grow academically, emotionally and spiritually by developing curiosity, kindness, empathy and a sense of belonging within our school community. Guided by Psalm 51:10, we recognise the importance of nurturing both heart and mind, encouraging children to reflect, renew and flourish as caring members of society.

Our collective worship brings our community together in reflection, prayer and shared experiences, helping every child to understand their value, celebrate diversity and develop a strong sense of identity and belonging.

## Introduction

Collective worship at Cavendish C of E Primary School is an important and valued part of school life. It provides opportunities for the whole school community to gather together in reflection, worship and prayer in a spirit of respect, inclusion and shared purpose.

As a Church of England school, collective worship reflects the Christian character of the school and is broadly Christian in nature. At the same time, worship is inclusive and sensitive to the range of beliefs, experiences and backgrounds represented within our school community.

Collective worship is intended to be appropriate for and include all pupils attending the school. It recognises that there will be a diversity of beliefs and commitments within the school population and therefore allows for a variety of responses from those present.

## Aims of Collective Worship

Through collective worship we aim:

- To provide opportunities for those who wish to worship God.
- To develop children's spiritual and moral understanding.
- To encourage a sense of awe and wonder about the world around them.

- To provide regular opportunities for reflection, prayer and stillness.
- To promote values such as honesty, respect, tolerance, forgiveness, fairness and compassion.
- To support children in understanding their responsibilities as members of the school, local, British and global communities.
- To encourage awareness of and concern for the needs of others.
- To foster a caring Christian community where every child feels valued and included.
- To provide opportunities for thanksgiving, friendship, hope, joy and shared celebration.
- To encourage children to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences.

## Christian Values

Cavendish C of E Primary School offers a distinctly Christian education in an inclusive environment where children are encouraged to learn, enquire and grow.

Our Christian values underpin all aspects of school life, including collective worship, Religious Education, behaviour expectations and relationships throughout the school community.

Each term, the school focuses on a specific Christian value which is displayed throughout the school and explored during worship, lessons and school activities. Children are encouraged to consider how these values can be demonstrated in their own lives and in the lives of others.

Our values support children in making positive choices, understanding consequences and developing respectful relationships both within school and beyond.

## The Character of Collective Worship

Collective worship is carefully planned to provide a variety of meaningful experiences that enable children to reflect on their beliefs and worship God.

Worship may include:

- Bible stories and other appropriate stories
- Prayer and reflection
- Discussion of themes and moral issues
- Singing hymns and songs
- Poetry
- Music
- Drama and mime
- Visual images and artefacts
- Contributions from visiting speakers

A focal point is used to create a reflective atmosphere during worship. This may include candles, a cross, music, displays or visual imagery.

Children are encouraged to participate respectfully through:

- Silent reflection
- Spoken prayer
- Singing
- Verbal discussion and response
- Written reflections

Children may choose to make prayers their own by saying “Amen”. The Lord’s Prayer is used regularly as part of collective worship.

## Inclusion and Respect

Collective worship recognises and respects the diversity within the school community. Worship is conducted in a way that is sensitive to pupils’ age, background, beliefs and experiences.

While worship is broadly Christian in character, all children are welcomed and included. Opportunities are provided for children to reflect personally and respond in ways that are meaningful to them.

The school is committed to ensuring that collective worship contributes positively to pupils’ wellbeing, inclusion and sense of belonging.

## Spiritual and Moral Development

Developing children’s spiritual and moral values is an integral part of the school’s broad and balanced curriculum.

Collective worship supports children in:

- Reflecting on their own experiences and beliefs
- Developing empathy and compassion
- Understanding right and wrong
- Appreciating the beauty and wonder of the world
- Building respectful and caring relationships
- Developing resilience, hope and confidence

The wellbeing of every pupil remains at the heart of everything we do.

## Visiting Speakers and Church Links

Church representatives regularly lead collective worship and help children understand Christian festivals, traditions and teachings.

Other visiting speakers may also contribute to worship. The Headteacher will agree the theme and content in advance to ensure that it is appropriate and consistent with the school’s values and ethos.

The school maintains strong links with the local church and holds public acts of worship at significant Christian festivals such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

## Planning and Organisation

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for planning collective worship themes in collaboration with teaching staff.

Themes are planned to:

- Reflect the Christian calendar
- Promote the school's Christian values
- Address relevant social, moral and spiritual themes
- Support pupils' personal development and wellbeing

Collective worship may take place as whole-school worship, key stage worship, class worship or special celebration services.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

The effectiveness of collective worship is monitored by staff, governors and pupils.

Feedback is gathered to ensure worship remains meaningful, engaging and relevant to the needs of the school community.

Monitoring may include:

- Pupil voice
- Staff discussion and reflection
- Governor visits
- Observation of worship sessions
- Evaluation of planning and themes

## Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from acts of collective worship, either wholly or in part, in accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988.

Parents wishing to exercise this right should discuss the matter with the Headteacher. Alternative arrangements will be made for the supervision of pupils who are withdrawn.

## Conclusion

Collective worship at Cavendish C of E Primary School plays a central role in nurturing a caring, reflective and inclusive Christian community. Through opportunities for worship, reflection and shared experiences, children are encouraged to grow spiritually, morally, socially and emotionally.

By living out our vision of *We Learn, We Love, We Belong*, we seek to inspire every child to become a confident, compassionate and respectful individual who is eager to learn, able to build caring relationships, and proud to contribute positively to the world around them.

## Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly by the Headteacher and Governing Body to ensure it continues to reflect the vision, values and statutory requirements of the school.