



## The Carlton & Faceby and Bilsdale CE Federation

# Collective Worship Policy

Author /Signed	K. McDonald
Adopted by	Governing Body Signed: <u>B. Jorkman</u> Date: February 2021 (Chair of Governors)
Date	January 2021
Review Date	January 2022

## Collective Worship Policy

### 1. Introduction

Bilsdale and Carlton & Faceby are two small, vibrant Church of England primary schools. Our schools are one trusting family with God at the centre, inspiring faith, hope and love. Christian values guide and support all that we do, giving us strong foundations for life. This Collective Worship policy has been designed with our schools' population in mind. It is written in accordance with guidance from North Yorkshire's Standing Advisory Council for RE (SACRE) and York Diocese Sample Collective Worship Policy.

### 2. Policy statement

This Collective Worship policy reflects the law (i.e. the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act) and strengthens the community ethos of the school.

Collective Worship will take place daily and will be planned so as to be appropriate to all pupils of any religion or none, to enable them to be present and take part as appropriate.

The aims of collective worship in our schools:

- To provide an opportunity for staff and all pupils to meet together each day to worship God, explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues
- To be sensitive to the needs of all children and make the assembly accessible to all
- To ensure worship is wholly Christian, but materials from other faiths may be included where appropriate
- To develop a sense of community within the school and celebrate achievements and special occasion
- To enable pupils to explore a variety of forms of worship
- Where possible collective worship will link to parts of the school curriculum e.g. religious education and PSHE curriculum
- To involve children in an active way in the worship
- In our school worship we aim to reflect the aims of the school, 'Educating the Individual'
- To provide children with a sense of awe and wonder for the world around them and empathy for others.

All present should feel valued whatever their faith or personal beliefs.

Under no circumstances will pupils be asked to accept beliefs, which are contrary to their family background.

They will reflect the beliefs and backgrounds of individual pupils and encourage a voluntary response from pupils.

Worship will acknowledge and respect the responses of individual pupils and provide opportunities for them to express their feelings, delight at life, wonder, joy, rejoicing, sorrow, etc.

Collective worship will not assume a shared religious commitment. They will encourage pupils to consider their own place in the community and what it means to be a citizen.

The school values the impact of collective worship on the wellbeing of all members of the school community and ensures that collective worship is regularly monitored and evaluated by the Vision and Values Committee who meet once a term.

### 3. **Monitoring and Evaluation:**

- Pupils, staff and governors have overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation on a termly basis
- All who deliver worship will be observed on a termly basis. This process supports the school's self-evaluation, is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body
- Pupils are also involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in weekly class worship, questionnaires and pupil conferences
- All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice
- Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our parent surveys, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our Church School Team and Governing Body and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York (SIAMS).

### 4. **Inclusion and Equal Opportunities**

Bilsdale Midcable Chop Gate (VC) and Carlton & Faceby Church of England (VA) Primary Schools uphold an Equal Opportunities Policy. All parents will be offered the opportunity for their children to participate in Collective Acts of Worship activities, with provision being made for children with special requirements e.g., disabilities requiring assistance for practical activities.

### 5. **Responsibilities**

#### **The Headteacher will:**

- Ensure the centrality of worship in the life of the school
- Allocate appropriate time for collective worship
- Be responsible for co-ordinating collective worship
- Set high expectations and monitor the quality of provision for collective worship
- Support individual teachers and others delivering Collective Worship, enabling them to attend appropriate training
- Lead the school community in acts of worship, celebrations and reflections and prayer

## Faith – Hope - Trust

- Distinguish Collective Worship from notices and ‘assembly’
- Organise occasions when worship takes place in church
- Ensure a worshipful atmosphere be created and sustained
- Give opportunities for parents and governors to attend
- Foster and promote strong links with Parish Clergy and church communities

### **The Governors will:**

- Appoint a Church School Team to monitor and liaise with the Headteacher over Collective Worship
- Ensure that the legal requirements for worship are met
- Be well informed and encourage the development of collective worship through the leadership of the Headteacher and co-ordinator for Collective Worship
- Support the staff in implementing the school’s policy for Collective Worship
- Monitor Collective Worship through the Church School team
- Monitor and review progress and provision enabling, through the school budget, sufficient resources to be available for the provision of excellent opportunities for Collective Worship
- Appoint staff who are actively supportive of the aims and ethos of a church school
- Familiarise themselves with the mission, aims and values statement and ensure its implementation
- Protect the centrality of worship to the life of the school
- Ensure the school’s worship reflects its Anglican heritage
- Encourage links to be made with the local churches and clergy

### **The Co-ordinator (Headteacher) will:**

- Lead by example showing an enthusiasm and understanding of Collective Worship
- Offer support to teachers in planning, teaching and assessing
- Work alongside the Church School Team to monitor and evaluate the quality of provision and planning
- Identify, plan and develop in-service training needs and facilitate the sharing of good practice, information, initiatives and developments in RE
- Manage and co-ordinate resources for collective worship
- Ensure that the school’s worship will reflect its Anglican heritage
- Be on hand to assist and advise visitors and clergy when leading collective worship
- Enhance the educational value of worship and possible links made with other areas of the curriculum

### **The Teachers will:**

- Plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. A 4-stage structure of planning including ‘Gathering’ ‘engaging’ ‘responding’ ‘sending’, will be followed. There should also be space for evaluation
- Follow the Annual Long-Term Plan for Collective Worship
- Use the resources from Christian Values for Life as the starting point for worship
- Place planning in the CW File and keep up to date records

*“...with God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26*

## Faith – Hope - Trust

- Ensure that the correct amount of time is given to Collective Worship
- Use relevant up to date and stimulating resources
- Ensure that children of all abilities have access to worship and know that they are special
- Encourage positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Use the Diocesan guide “Worship Works” as a guide to help learners understand Anglican practice and faith
- Give children a range of experiences of worship, for example, stillness, quietness and time to reflect, as well as singing, celebration, wonder and time to respond
- Encourage links with local churches, visiting speakers, parishioners and the wider church
- Monitor and evaluate worship experiences
- Nurture Christian values that impact on children enabling them to flourish
- Use resources from other cultures and religions to enhance worship
- Respond to worldwide, national and local events to help children come to terms with them, as well as issues which arise in school
- Attend Collective Worship at whole school level

### **The SENCO will:**

- Support the Worship co-ordinator in including children with special educational needs to participate fully in acts of worship
- Keep up to date with resources and ensure that members of staff are made aware of any relevant information relating to children’s special needs or anxieties
- Implement intervention strategies when necessary

### **Children will be encouraged to:**

- Enjoy times of Collective Worship and have a sense of belonging
- Actively participate in Collective Worship
- Be given time for personal reflection and response
- Have opportunities to experience awe and wonder
- Celebrate Christian values and the worth of the school family
- Explore and evaluate their own beliefs, consider their innermost thoughts and feelings
- Celebrate special occasions and seasons in the church’s year
- Reflect on the needs of individuals through prayer
- Have positive social relationships
- Derive inspiration and affirmation from worship
- Contribute through reading, singing, drama and prayer
- Respond willingly, listen and participate
- Recognise and respect the faith of others in other cultures
- Develop an understanding of the Anglican faith and practices including the variety of styles and traditions
- Be familiar with the Lord’s Prayer
- Become aware that Anglicanism is a worldwide community of believers and that they are part of a diocesan and national church

*“...with God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26*

## Faith – Hope - Trust

- Value the environment and reflect on creation
- Lead Collective Worship at appropriate times and provide feedback for evaluation

### **Support Staff will:**

- Be included in acts of worship as timetabled with an attendance of one per week minimum
- Be encouraged to share their own talents and skills

### **Parents will:**

- Be encouraged to develop positive attitudes to the school's approach to Collective Worship and its relationship with the local and wider church
- Be encouraged to participate in acts of worship, particularly those in church and the family monthly worships
- Share their own talents and skills, insights and concerns

## **6. Organisation and Delivery:**

- CW is provided daily for every pupil usually as a whole school for approximately 20 minutes in the hall (Carlton & Faceby) or Classroom 2 (Bilsdale)
- CW will be led by teaching staff, visitors, clergy and governors
- Opportunities for parents and governors to attend will be created
- Worship will be distinguished from other notices and assemblies
- On occasions worship will take place in church
- Music will be played to create prayerful atmosphere and candles and a seasonal focus table will be used
- The table will be dressed in our handmade worship cloths
- A range of approaches will be used including storytelling, drama, puppets, visual aids, role play, music etc.

## **7. 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.

### **Style and Character**

The style of the worship at both Bilsdale and Carlton & Faceby schools is:

- The school provides a daily act of worship which is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character
- The school has a SACRE determination which allows us to hold a daily act of collective worship which is of an inclusive character drawing inspiration from a range of faiths, beliefs and traditions
- Interpreting the law for our school Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship on grounds of conscience should they wish to do so, but we believe that Collective Worship is inclusive and beneficial for all pupils. Parents are asked to contact the Headteacher to discuss any concerns.

**Arrangements for those children withdrawn from Collective Worship**

It is hoped that no child will have to be withdrawn from Collective Worship, but where this is the case the following arrangements will be made. A member of staff will provide and supervise an alternative activity in the classroom.

**8. The content of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship may include the following:

The content of Collective Worship will be designed to enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils: to provide opportunities for reflection: to celebrate the good, praise achievements and promote recognition of each pupil's own worth and potential.

A collection of prayers, hymns and psalms may be used.

Special acts of worship linked to the Church of England Christian calendar may be incorporated e.g. Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas.

Collective Worship will aim to appeal to the children's imagination through a variety of stimuli.

**9. Conclusion**

Collective Worship is an opportunity to affirm and celebrate Christian values the school believes to be important within the school and the wider community. Within this context our worship seeks also to be sensitive to the varying needs of different cultures and faiths.