



Sleights Church of England
(Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

January 2023

Working together to be happy; to flourish; to succeed
through our Christian values
perseverance, respect and trust.

This policy intends to outline the policy and procedure for collective worship at Sleights Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School.

In our Church school, our vision is to “work together to be happy; to flourish; to succeed”. This policy intends to outline how our whole school community lives this out in relation to collective worship.

Our Christian Values are firmly rooted in this policy.

Christian Value	How is this value lived out in our Collective Worship policy?
perseverance	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13)</i></p> <p>Our school community encourages all children to push on and persevere, even when things get difficult. In Collective Worship, we learn through Christian teachings that God is always there to support us, to persevere and to “keep going”, even when things are difficult: both in learning and our wider life.</p>
Respect	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you (Matthew 7:12)</i></p> <p>At Sleights, Collective Worship is regarded as a special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a Church school. It aims to promote mutual respect between all members of the school community and beyond. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none.</p>
Trust	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>My God is my strength in whom I trust (Psalm 18:2)</i></p> <p>We rely on feedback from children and families in relation to homework. We value this feedback. Trust and open dialogue with families is well established, so that where families and children feel they need to withdraw from certain aspects of Collective Worship, this is discussed with the Headteacher and managed seamlessly.</p>

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 Sleights Church of England (VC) Primary School we consider Collective Worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the school’s distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of all learners. It is a time to come together, as a community, to share common values and principles and to develop a sense of awe and wonder concerning our place within the world.

The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Therefore, Collective Worship at Sleights Church of England (VC) Primary School is planned to:

- to be inspirational and inclusive;
- regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and which will explore and relate to the school’s core Christian values;
- have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity;
- 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.
- be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.

Aims

Collective Worship at Sleights Church of England (VC) Primary School aims to:

- enable the school community to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition;
- explore the school's Christian vision and values and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God;
- share teachings of the Christian faith for the school community to make an informed choice and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ;
- encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework
- raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith;
- Encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally;
- seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence;
- develop a sense of community within the school, the locality, (e.g. local church) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions;
- provide an opportunity to bring personal needs and those of others before God in prayer;
- help children discover their place in the world;
- develop inner awareness, valuing self and the view and opinions of others;
- engage all learners, who should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school;

Statement of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus. In such circumstances, parents are encouraged to discuss their reasons for withdrawal with the Headteacher, although they are not required to do so

Inclusion

Sleights Church of England (VC) 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 communities
- those who may not share in any particular religious belief

Planning and Organisation

Themes for Collective Worship are planned by the co-ordinator, the pupil collective worship planning team and foundation governors, using the Roots and Fruits framework as a basis. Planning focusses primarily upon the study of a value as follows:

	Year A	Year B
Autumn 1	Generosity	Thankfulness
Autumn 2	Compassion	Trust
Spring 1	Courage	Perseverance
Spring 2	Forgiveness	Justice
Summer 1	Friendship	Service
Summer 2	Respect	Truthfulness

The Christian calendar and areas of interest shown by pupils, in their own faith, are also taken into account in Collective worship planning.

Whole school Collective Worship is held on 4 days of the week with class-based worship held on the remaining day.

Once a week on a Friday, the School gathers for this worship, in which achievements of pupils at the school are celebrated. This worship will normally provide opportunities for spiritual development.

Pupils are involved in the planning and leading of Collective Worship in the following ways:

- Each class takes a turn in planning and leading a whole school Collective Worship. Pupils are encouraged to suggest the theme and message of the act of worship and consider how they will deliver this message to other pupils;
- Each class may have responsibility for preparing and delivering part of a longer Collective Worship which may be held at Church to celebrate a specific time of year (e.g. Christmas, Easter, Harvest).
- Year 6 prepare and deliver the act of worship in church that is their Leavers' Service;
- In most acts of collective worship, individual pupils are invited to lead prayers, which pupils of all ages are keen to do;
- Pupils are invited to be volunteers on an 'ad hoc' basis to act out or role play situations/stories.

Implementation and Delivery

We mark out this special time by lighting three candles (to represent the Trinity), entering and exiting calmly and quietly, having time for stillness and reflection, saying „welcome words“ and responses together, singing and listening to music.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4-stage structure of planning:

- **Gathering:** We welcome the community with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle.
- **Engaging:** We share a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message
- **Responding:** Pupils discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing
- **Sending:** We share the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will impact upon their day, learning and/or behaviour. We close worship with liturgy, final prayer, music and the blowing out of the candles.

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities, including: music, silence, symbolism, drama, ICT etc.

Responsibilities

Worship Group

Pupils from Year 2 to Year 6 can volunteer to be a member of the Worship Group who remain in place for half of the school year. Members take it in turns to carry out routine tasks such as setting up the Worship Table, welcoming and dismissing, organising the music and operating the computer/projector. In addition, they regularly plan and prepare the delivery of the content of Collective Worship with the Worship Leader (e.g. reading the story, acting out, preparing role plays)

Worship Co-ordinator/Foundation Governor

Lead and work alongside the Worship Group to plan and organise collective worship across school and the wider community through both daily worship and those celebrating specific times throughout the Christian calendar.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Evaluation strategies currently used by staff and governors for assessing the outcomes of collective worship are:

- Observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest shown during the sessions. Observations are conducted by staff and governors.
- Feedback from pupils and parents by means of annual surveys.
- Feedback from pupils through regular collective worship planning team meetings.
- Termly collective worship meetings with the foundation governors.
- Observation of the children's general behaviour in and around school.

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 or Governor;
- informal observations of how pupils are putting the messages from Collective Worship into practice;
- pupils' responses and ideas during Collective Worship
- written evidence in response to prompts in the whole school reflection corner which links with the Collective Worship theme.
- written and photographic evidence from prayer spaces.

The school's foundation governors have a role monitoring Collective Worship

The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by The Worship co-ordinator.

Visitors

Visitors are supported to understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general, the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

Father Michael Gobbett supports the school by visiting and leading worship at Sleights (approximately once each half term).