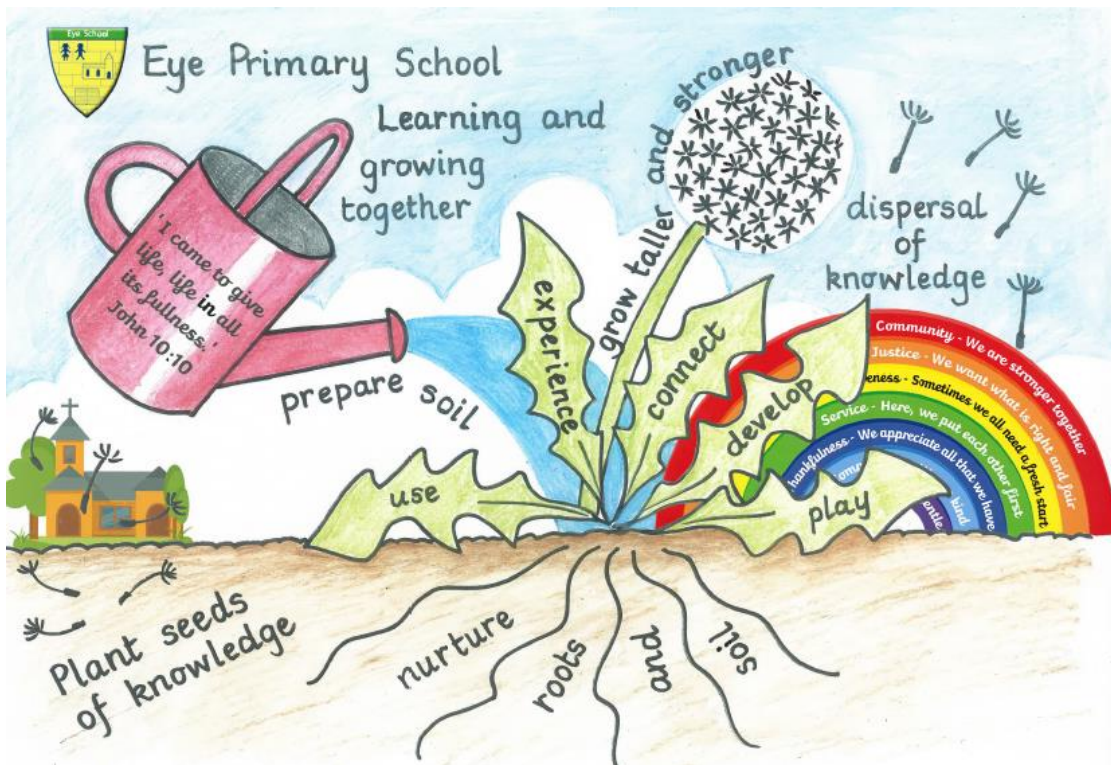


Eye C of E Primary School

Learning and Growing Together
for 'Life in all its Fullness'.

Jesus said: "I came to give life, life in all its fullness." John 10:10

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



Eye C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 10:10

Policy Statement

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do. We are driven and inspired by Jesus' words: "I came to give life, life in all its fullness" (John 10:10). We have high aspirations for every member of our school community to GROW and flourish as children of God, prepared for an undetermined future and equipped with opportunities and experiences to have fullness of life, through Jesus.

At Eye C of E Primary School, worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision and values. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At Eye C of E Primary School collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through collective worship, pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in their understanding of the school's GROW standards Christians values. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (and other faiths) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually. At Eye C of E Primary School, we understand worship to be a special act or occasion where the purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves pupils and staff coming together and participating in a daily gathering. In line with the school's foundation as a Church of England school, we base our collective worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Anglican Church. However, we aim to conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive and inclusive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of school.

Collective worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Eye C of E Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can;

- Share common aims and values
- Celebrate achievement and special times
- Explore together the world in which we live
- Develop a community spirit

Aims for Collective Worship

The aims and purpose of collective worship are;

- To provide an invitational opportunity for the children and adults to worship God
- To support children and adults in their spiritual growth
- To be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- To enable the children and adults to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable the children and adults to explore their own beliefs
- To invite children and adults to participate and respond, providing an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- To develop in children and adults a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- To introduce different ways of worshipping

At Eye C of E Primary school, collective worship is very important to our life and work as we offer the distinctive contribution of a Voluntary Controlled Church School. We provide an opportunity for children and staff to worship in a Christian style, which is consistent with the traditional beliefs and practices of the Church of England.

Church of England Guidance

The collective worship policy at Eye C of E Primary School draws on guidance from the Church of England. This guidance document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish.

GROW Standards and Christian Values

We have four GROW standards which are underpinned by our seven Christian values which permeate all that happens within our school.

Gratitude	Respect	Ownership	Wisdom
Thankfulness Service	Compassion Peace Justice	Forgiveness Community	<i>Application of values</i>

These standards and values form the basis of our behaviour policy and all that happens within our school, helping children to understand how Christian teachings can help them to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently. The aim is for their self-esteem and well-being to be sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens.

Through learning about, developing and upholding these standards and values with real examples of Bible teaching, we endeavour for children to discover the truth in the words that Jesus said: 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.' (John 10:10)

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge that there must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at anytime in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. Worship in Eye C of E Primary School should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governing body of the school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Framework. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher and senior leaders.

Organisation

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. The format for these is agreed annually and an example is in the appendix. We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worship time is special thinking time for calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect them to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teaching and invite them to participate in prayer and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and a cross and candle that acts as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The Head Teacher, Deputy Head, Assistant Heads and other members of staff conduct collective worship and we invite visitors from other Christian organisations weekly. This brings greater variety to our worship times and strengthens links between school and the local churches. Our collective worship schedule provides a variety of worship experiences for the children. Parents are invited to celebration collective worship and other special services e.g. at Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and the Leavers' service for Year 6. This promotes the community spirit of the school. We welcome governors' attendance at our collective worship at any time. Other opportunities for prayer and reflection are given at lunchtimes and in classes at the end of each school day. Worship opportunities are also offered to staff, children and their families as we attend services in St Matthew's Church.

The worship should last approximately 20 minutes.

Planning, Content and Detail

A plan of themes is produced annually reflecting our school vision and the standards and values we have chosen as a school. We also consider and reflect on the festivals and special times of the Christian calendar. A record is kept of all acts of worship, recording themes covered and songs/music used. A range of resources are used to support the planning and delivery of worship.

We also hold collective worship that reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in collective worship by showing their work to others and sharing issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements recognised.

The format of worship is similar each day to ensure that children develop a good understanding of Anglican practices and the Christian calendar. Additionally, it is organised so children are able to take an active part in the worship.

Worship begins as children enter the hall and at this point the children are aware that our hall becomes our church. Whilst entering, the children listen to music and are able to join in with singing a familiar song if they so wish.

Our Church Ambassadors begin our worship by saying a prayer as the candle is lit and then the whole school may also join in with The Lord's Prayer. The worship leader is then introduced if necessary and the main content of the worship is delivered. Following this, a Bible reading may be given by children.

Prayers complete the worship. The leader may say a short prayer and a child may also be chosen to read a prayer they have written.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers are used including the school prayer, Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of the whole school worship, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles. A cross and Bible are also displayed above or on the altar, which is decorated in the colour which reflects the current church season.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, prayers are said in each class. Teachers make an individual decision about whether to say a prayer with their class at the end of the school day.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. Leaders of collective worship make links within our collective worship to the beliefs or celebrations of other faiths and religions.

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

Governors play an active role in the monitoring of collective worship and evaluating how it is enabling children to flourish spiritually and how it is reflecting the school's vision. These outcomes are then reported to governors and the link governor then supports staff to develop collective worship further.

The children's voice is also heard through pupil voice and particularly through the Church Ambassadors group to consider how collective worship can be improved and to evaluate the impact.

Visits and Visitors

As part of the curriculum, Eye CE Primary School ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St Matthew's Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and Leavers' Services.

Equal Opportunities and Special Educational Needs

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to collective worship. Teachers, in collaboration with parents, will make reasonable adjustments to collective worship to meet the needs of children. Some children may attend 'Sensory Cabin Collective Worship' which allows them to engage with Bible teaching, reflection and prayer in a more informal way through stories and sensory activities.

Virtual Collective Worship

In the circumstance where we are unable to meet in large groups as a part or whole school, collective worship will take place daily within classrooms. These worships will be led by the class and class teacher as well as virtually via video by other senior leaders. These virtual collective worships will be shared on the 'Video Resource Centre' page of the school website to be shared with parents and carers or for children to access at home.

The Right of Withdrawal

In Eye C of E Primary School there are children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from collective worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

The Head Teacher keeps a record of any children who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Rebecca Bright

Collective Worship Leader

January 2024

Appendix 1

Collective Worship Schedule

Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday	Whole school worship led by visitors from Christian organisations
Tuesday*	Whole school singing worship led by teachers
Wednesday*	Whole school GROW standards and Christian Values worship led by SLT
Thursday	Class worship led by teachers
Friday	Whole School GROW celebration worship led by Headteacher and SLT

*days are interchangeable