

Richard Coates
CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



“Be Still and Know that I am God”

(Psalm 46:10)

Revised: September 2019

Chair of Governors: Mr Austin Bowman

Date of next review: September 2021

(This document is available in an alternative format and in an alternative language on request)

Appendix 1: Useful websites

Appendix 2: Themes from September 2019

RICHARD COATES CE PRIMARY SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT AND INTRODUCTION

This Policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's Mission Statement. It supports and reinforces the aims of Richard Coates CE School, valuing all of us (as God's children) equally.

Mission Statement: "Our mission is to enable all individuals to achieve their full potential within a happy and caring Christian community".

Collective Worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school. It aims to be an oasis of peace at the start of the school day, when staff and children meet together in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. The aim is that the Christian values discussed such as compassion for others, care and kindness, tolerance, respect for others and forgiveness might manifest themselves in our day to day words and actions and have a positive impact on the daily life of our school and beyond.

RATIONALE – LEGAL

The School Standards and Framework Act, Section 70, dictates that pupils should take part in a daily act of collective worship which is "wholly and mainly of the broadly Christian character". Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship.

RATIONALE – RELIGIOUS/EDUCATIONAL

Our aim is that Collective Worship at Richard Coates:

- Gives all an opportunity to worship God, through prayer, music and reflection on spoken words.
- Encourages all to consider fundamental questions about the purpose of being and about moral, cultural, social and ethical stances.
- Provides an opportunity for all to participate in the leading of religious worship.
- Allows us to learn and celebrate values we hold to be important.
- Brings children together, enabling them to experience the security of belonging to a community with an identity of its own.
- Is the source of interesting and thought provoking knowledge.
- Makes an important, though not exclusive, contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Enables the celebration of gifts and talents.
- Allows us to celebrate how, individually or as part of our school community, our light shines.
- Provides a weekly link between school and our clergy.
- Provides an opportunity for quiet and stillness.

AIMS AND PRINCIPALS

Richard Coates Church of England School shares the National Society's aims of worship as:

"To give pupils and school staff alike the opportunity to:

- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar"

“Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes”. (DfES-Circular 1/94)

The following principles guide our approach to Collective Worship at Richard Coates CE School.

- Collective Worship should have a sense of occasion.
- Collective Worship should provide experiences within which spiritual development may flourish.
- Collective Worship should be a means of expressing the ethos and values of the school.
- Collective Worship should be educational and should contribute to the Religious Education of all pupils.
- We should provide a varied pattern of worship to broaden pupils’ experience of its different forms.
- Collective Worship should recognise that the school includes children from different faith and non-faith backgrounds: the Creed and the Eucharist will therefore not be used as part of the worship routine.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of Collective Worship are to:

- Teach pupils about the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God.
- Introduce pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement and prayer.
- Create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere in assemblies, conducive to worship; including the manner of entry and exit.
- Encourage a thoughtful and reflective attitude. (“Be still and know”)
- Help all experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness.
- Enable all to use silence for reflection and contemplation.
- Raise a curiosity about the ultimate mysteries of life.
- Enable all to learn about and consider Christian teaching, Christian festivals and Biblical material and festivals relating to other religious teaching.
- Help all appreciate that we are ‘stewards’ of God’s world.
- Enable all to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to those of others.
- Enhance spiritual, social and cultural development.
- Guide all towards the spiritual and religious options open to them.
- Help all distinguish between right and wrong.
- Affirm personal worth and responsibility in all.
- Celebrate individual and collective gifts, talents and achievements, living out our school motto “let your light shine”.
- Develop a sense of community and belonging within the school.
- Celebrate religious festivals and special occasions with specified worship.

ORGANISATION

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole School - Hall 9 – 9.15	Whole School		Whole School		
Key Stage - in Hall 9-9.15		Key Stage 2		Early Years	Key Stage 1
Class based – in form room 9-9.15	To take place daily when Key Stage or school worship is not scheduled.				

RESOURCES

- 'Simply Collective Worship' by Phil Lord
- Websites (see Appendix 1)
- Scripture Union Schools' Live Membership
- Reference books
- Music CD's
- Laptop, projector, sound system
- Lectern, visual images
- Candle and holder and visual aids
- Advent wreath for worship during advent
- Relevant videos e.g. Newsround Clips, Story Teller's Bible, Worship videos and songs

MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- The Headteacher publishes termly plans of worship themes each term in consultation with pupils, staff and visiting clergy.
- The Key Stage leaders arrange visits to St Mary's Church termly for each year group
- The Music Leader arranges music for worship songs and hymns and organises musical items for services and celebrations.
- The Headteacher and DHT work to ensure key events are celebrated each year (e.g. 11.00 am silence and worship on Remembrance Day).
- The Headteacher will circulate relevant collective worship websites and web based resources to staff.
- Key Stage Leaders arranges weekly worship for their year/Key Stage – led by pupils and teachers. This is time for each year to come together as a family and reflect on the theme of the week or consider matters relevant to them.
- Class based worship is planned by for tutors and their class with guidance from the Headteacher on the theme and relevant scripture. Class based worship should feel different to "lessons" and this can be marked by acts such as lighting/showing a candle, or the specific routine for worship adopted by the class. Class based worship might consist of a thought for the day or a story or activity based on the theme for the week and a short prayer. Class worship may also be a time for class reflection on matters that have arisen during the week within the classroom, e.g. friendship issues using themes such as forgiveness and reconciliation.

SPECIAL EVENT AND SERVICES

All major Christian Festivals are celebrated and are included in our weekly themes. Special services are also arranged for example:

- Advent period-advent wreath used for worship.
- Christmas carol services at St Mary's Church and nativity plays (visitors).
- St Mary's Carol service-(school involved in evening service).
- Lent-encourage all to take part in events such as Forty Acts...
- Easter-services in school and at St Mary's (visitors).
- Ascension Day-service in school.
- Pentecost-service in school.
- Life Path celebration
- Prayer Stations Week
- Christmas and Easter Journey – interactive workshops
- Participation in Newcastle Cathedral for Diocesan Leavers' Service.
- Founder's Day Service at the end of the school year-giving thanks for the school year (visitors).
- September-start of new school year-we give the new school year to God.
- Harvest-service in school (class harvest baskets and bring produce)-(visitors).
- Remembrance Sunday and Armistice-silence at 11 am on 11th November.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Collective Worship at Richard Coates complies with our trust Deed and the legal requirements set out in the 1996 Education Act, which states that "Collective Worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character which means that it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief". As a church aided school, our worship is of a Christian character and within the Anglican tradition.

We aim to ensure that collective worship is meaningful and relevant for all children and staff, for those with a faith background and those with none. Our school exerts no pressure on children to become worshipping Christians, or to participate actively in any activity that will compromise their own family faith or beliefs. However, Christian values are built into our ethos and are reflected in the themes of our worship. Should parents wish to exercise their right to withdraw their child from collective worship, this is discussed with the Headteacher. We aim to make all children and their parents feel that attendance does not compromise their own feelings and that collective worship is an important time when the school comes together as an "extended family". For this reason all children and staff are expected to attend all assemblies.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. The school prospectus informs parents of their right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship. Such pupils are fully supervised in another part of the school.

Role of Headteacher and those involved in leading/co-ordinating worship

- To update and review the school's policy for Collective Worship.
- To ensure the school meets the legal requirement for Collective Worship.
- To plan an overall balanced programme of worship for the year.
- To be responsible for ordering, maintaining and displaying resources (e.g. signage).
- To administer the budget for Collective Worship.
- To liaise with the local clergy, Governing Body and Diocesan officers on matters relating to Collective Worship.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Evaluation strategies used by staff for assessing the outcomes of Collective Worship are:

- Observation of the children's interest level and attentiveness;
- School Council Meetings
- Feedback from pupils and visitors;
- Observation of the children's general behaviour in and around school, and to one another;
- A focused visit by Foundation Governors.

REVIEW

The Governing Body will review this policy bi-annually from the date of its adoption. Informal Review may be necessary in the interim and should take place as and when required.

Appendix 1

Website Resources for Collective Worship

www.scriptureunion.org.uk

www.resourcescentreonline.co.uk

www.openthebook.net/home.php

www.prayerspacesinschools.com/home

www.assemblingcitizens.co.uk

www.assemblies.org.uk

www.culham.ac.uk/cw

<http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/>

www.prayingeachday.org/

www.reonline.org.uk

www.retoday.org.uk

www.stapleford-centre.org/

www.cafod.org.uk

www.barnabasinschools.org.uk

www.spinnaker.org.uk

www.learn.christianaid.org.uk/

www.schoolswork.co.uk

www.assemblies.org.uk/

www.damaris.org/schools

Appendix 2

Autumn 2019

Week beginning	Theme	Suggested Bible Link (bold = suggested story from Lion StoryTeller Bible)	Possible Class based focus
<u>2 Sep</u>	Recipe for Success Trying new things Putting the right things in to do well.	The Two Houses <u>1 Corinthians 9:24-25</u> <u>Colossians 3:23-24</u> Matthew 19:26	Make a recipe for a happy class - agreeing what is needed for a happy class. Agree a class Bible quote for a happy class - e.g. Matthew 7:12, Luke 6:31
<u>9 Sep</u>	This is your lot! Making the most of what we have. Positivity	The Man Who Came Back 1 Thessalonians 5:18	What is gratitude? Talk about what pupils have that they want to say thank you for. What could they not live without? Difference between needs, greed and want.
<u>16 Sep</u>	Genes and Genetics - uniquely made! Jeans for Genes week non-uniform day Understanding genetic conditions	Isaiah 64:8 Psalm 139:13-14	Celebrate differences and acknowledge difficulties that pupils have - understand how they can help each other.
<u>23 Sep</u>	Being Brave David and Goliath - facing your giants and having courage.	David the Giant Killer (Other stories include Daniel and the Lions Den or Joshua 1:9)	Talk about fears. Reflect on times they have had to be brave. Consider ways to face fears - e.g. prayer, supporting each other etc.
<u>30 Sep</u>	It's Good to Talk! Learning and understanding "The Lord's Prayer" talking to God School Prayers and thank you prayers	The Two Sisters Mark 11.24	What is prayer? How do people in the class pray differently? Why is stillness and quiet important? Practise stillness and reflection. Write a class prayers
<u>7 Oct</u>	Team Work We're all in this together! No I in team.	Story of the Good Shepherd <u>1 Corinthians 12:20-25</u> <u>Philippians 2:1-30</u> <u>Ephesians 4:16</u>	What makes a good team? Explore with pupils when they have to work as a team - e.g. football
<u>14 Oct</u>	It's a wonderful world! Celebrating creation and appreciating the world in all its glory.	Story of Creation Mark 6.30-44	Explore "awe and wonder" in the world - ask who has been to the top of a mountain/hill, the shore of a lake etc. Wow moments - look at pictures.

			Consider variety of Animals plants and the richness of the world. Endangered animals.
<u>21 Oct</u>	Harvest Festival Thinking about where our food comes from and for farmers and growers around the world. Saying thank you for all we have.	A Marvellous Picnic (Feeding of 5,000)	Farming and food production. Look at where food comes from. Think about those who don't have enough food. Food wastage
<u>28 Oct</u>			
<u>4 Nov</u>	The Last Supper Why was this an important meal for Jesus and his disciples? Holy Communion - what does it mean to Christians today?	An Important Meal Luke 22 7 - 38 1 Corinthians 11.23-26	Hospitality and looking after guests. Consider - why is eating together special? Special meals. Do certain foods make you remember something? How do pupils remember special people? Older pupils - exploring the Eucharist
<u>11 Nov</u>	Belonging Introducing "Human Rights" on a basic level. What does belonging mean? Why do humans need to feel they "belong".	The Kind Stranger Psalm 100:3	Explore groups children belong to. How do they make everyone in the class feel they belong? KS2 - explore "Rights of a Child"
<u>18 Nov</u>	Refugees Why do people become refugees?	The Big Party Zechariah 7:9 Hebrews 13:2	CAFOD, Refugee Week, Action Aid, Twinkl all have resources for KS1 and KS2 What can we do to help? Move to action.
<u>25 Nov</u>	One mouth - two ears! The importance of listening. Listening to God.	The Two Sisters 1 Samuel 3.1-18	Play listening games and consider good; listening skills and strategies. Listening to advice and acting on it.
<u>2 Dec</u>	Advent What is advent and what does it mean to Christians? Patience and preparations - being prepared and organised for big events.	Start exploring the Christmas story	Explore how they count down and prepare for Christmas. Waiting and preparing for big events -eg baby arriving, a wedding, a special holiday.
<u>9 Dec</u>	Christmas around the world How do Christians around the world celebrate Christmas?	Christmas story and traditions	Investigate Christmas traditions in a chosen country - look at connections children have in the class.
<u>16 Dec</u>	Christmas Services and celebrations	The First Christmas Christmas story	