



Potten End Church of England Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY
Potten End Church of England Primary School

Policy Review

This policy was agreed by the Governing Board on.....15/12/22

It is due for review on.....Dec 25.....

Signature Date

Head Teacher

Signature Date

Chair of Governors



Potten End Church of England Primary School

Rooted in faith, we nurture, grow and flourish

INTRODUCTION

Collective Worship is for all pupils at Potten End CE Primary School. It usually forms part of an assembly or its entirety. It has the potential to unite the whole membership of the school and therefore to develop a sense of community. Collective Worship is a part of our school's contribution to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child. It is a time to celebrate the worth and value of every single person in the school community.

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all staff.

AIMS AND PURPOSE

Collective Worship should be an activity that:

- Is informative and spiritually enhancing, underpinning the spiritual and moral education being given to children.
- Fosters a sense of fellowship by bringing the school community together.
- Offers children the opportunity to worship and creates an atmosphere in which those who wish to worship can do so.
- Encourages a reflective approach to life.
- Develops a sense of self-worth and value whilst fostering the ability to consider questions for which there are no set answers.
- Introduces children to aspects of religious worship and faith.
- Encourages children to express their responses in a variety of ways.
- Encourages children to recognise the place of a Christian faith in the life of people, particularly in the context of a church school.
- Helps children to develop a sense of awe, curiosity, wonder and mystery.
- Encourages children to be creative, questioning and imaginative, within a Christian framework. Also recognising the importance of experience, personal values and respect for the beliefs of others.

It should also:

- Affirm some value of ultimate worth, which for some, will be God.
- Celebrate in songs, hymns, readings, art and other ways.
- Respond collectively and individually through statements of belief, prayer, silence or reflection.

OUR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

At Potten End CE Primary, we understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship involves all members



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of the school coming together, when possible. It involves a sharing of individual experiences about living and responding to the world. Collective Worship should be active, reflective, meaningful and seen as a special focus of the school day.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that Collective Worship should be wholly of a Christian character, we usually base our Collective Worship on the Christian Bible and traditions of the Christian Church. This also reflects our status as a church school. However, we conduct our Collective Worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian based, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religions by, for example, celebrating certain festivals. We recognise that many themes and values covered are common to a number of faiths.

ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship takes place each day. The Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team, staff, children, local vicar of Holy Trinity or other visitors conduct acts of Collective Worship. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way.

Monday: Whole school Collective Worship usually led by the Headteacher

Tuesday: Whole school Collective Worship usually led by the local vicar (currently Revd. Joe Roberts) or a Christian ecumenical partner.

Wednesday: Whole school Collective Worship usually based on the half-termly value (using the Roots and Fruits values) and led by a member of SLT

Thursday: Whole School singing

Friday: Class led collective worship

- Some acts of worship involve the wider community, where an outside speaker comes to highlight projects, needs and activities in which we may take part.
- The principles of Collective Worship are extended through children saying grace at lunchtime from their class prayer books.
- Throughout the year, parents and friends of the school from our local community are invited to special celebrations such as Harvest Festival, Remembrance, Christmas Carol Service, and School Leavers Assembly. This is a practical demonstration of the way home and the schoolwork together to support the achievements of our children.
- We welcome governors' attendance at our Collective Worship at any time.
- The Spiritual Leadership pupil team also lead worship twice per term.

CONTENT

We explore the half-termly Christian value during Collective Worship and develop this. These values tie together traditions of the Christian faith, Bible stories, wider school themes and school vision. Sessions, may on occasions, be planned to respond to events within school, or to a particular news item as it arises.



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At the end of each act of Collective Worship, the value/theme, story and hymn or song used will be recorded. This will ensure that we provide a balanced range of experiences and stimuli for the children. Feedback will be used to make any changes for the following year.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The staff and Governors at Potten End CE Primary School are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from Collective Worship. Our school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing our common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes and values. It is about affirming the equality of each individual in God's sight, whatever a child's gender, ethnicity, physical and mental ability.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship however, parents have the right to withdraw their children. Parents wishing to exercise this right will be invited to discuss the matter with the Headteacher. Children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship will be supervised, however no other form of religious instruction or worship will be offered.