Collective Worship Policy

Barcombe Hamsey Iford and Kingston Plumpton Skylark Federation

Reviewed: June 2026
Next review:

Signed .....Chair of Governors Date ……

Signed ..... Executive Headteacher Date ……

FRAMEWORK FOR WORSHIP AT IFORD AND KINGSTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL COMMITMENT TO WORSHIP

At Iford and Kingston, we recognise our responsibility to provide the opportunity for collective worship for all pupils and to promote their spiritual, moral and culture development. As a Church of England School, our worship is Christian in character. In our Church school community, everyone is valued, nurtured and enabled to flourish as we live, learn and love God, the world and our neighbour as ourselves.

The arrangements for collective worship at Iford and Kingston CE Primary School are made by the Governing body after consultation with the Executive Head Teacher and Head of School. This ensures that the act of worship is consistent with the vision and values of the school.

1. Worship should aim to be central to school life: *good worship focuses in God, the ethos, life and work of the school.*
2. Worship should aim to be educational: *good worship develops children's ideas about God.*
3. Worship should aim to be curricular: *good worship shows an appropriate links with the curriculum, RE policy and class work.*
4. Worship should aim to be stimulating and reflective: *good worship increases children's awareness of God through varied experiences.*
5. Worship should aim to be inclusive: *good worship engages everyone present in his/her own way.*

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND THE LAW

Church schools in Chichester Diocese must fulfil two legal requirements for Collective Worship:
- The legal requirement for Church schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.
- "The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups."

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND THE ANGLICAN TRADITION

During the worship at Iford and Kingston CE Primary School, we shall explore aspects of the Anglican tradition. We shall:
- Use the Bible as a source of inspiration and learning
- Reflect upon Christian symbols and their use in worship
- Observe the major Christian Festivals and the cycles of the Anglican year
- Use the parish church and Rector as resources
- Learn traditional responses and prayers to create a framework for worship within the school
- Use opportunities to explore other Christian denominations by welcoming members of other Churches to lead worship – a commitment to ecumenism
- Use a welcoming attitude to other faiths, sharing values and beliefs
- Use a repertoire of hymns from the Anglican Tradition

Worship and Spiritual Development at Kingston and Iford CE School

For worship to contribute to the spiritual development of pupils it should do the following:

1. Celebrate all that is good and lovely and express thankfulness for the joy of being alive.
2. Provide opportunities for pupils to share what is meaningful and significant to them including the 'darker side of life`.
3. Ensure that the experiences provided are relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the pupils.
4. Give time when appropriate for silent reflection and exploration of inner space.
5. Illustrate forms of worship that others have found helpful in their spiritual development e.g. silent contemplation, dance, singing. Provide a rich variety of forms of expression e.g. art, drama, story and give pupils the opportunity to experience these at their 'own level` rather than teachers simply providing their own interpretations.
6. Take place in an environment that is conducive to worship.
7. Always invite, never coerce, remembering that children will be at different stages of spiritual development and that they should feel able to respond and participate at their own level.

THE ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP

School worship will be based on the following structure:

1. Gathering /Creating the atmosphere
   - Music for pupils' entry and exit
   - A worship table as a focal point with artefacts such as a cross, candle or flowers
   - Comments should be open-ended and encouraging
   - Signal the start of worship with a liturgical response such as: Peace be with you – response 'and also with you' optional use of including sign language. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit Amen The Lord be with you And also with you A range of other call and respond statements can be developed or chosen for the season
2. Engagement - A wide range of strategies will be used to engage the community with the concept to be covered. This could include:
   - A bible story read, acted out, retold, hot seated, watched on film / listened to
   - Thinking about a particular theme through story, drama
   - Using a prop or modern-day event to lead into thinking about a biblical / spiritual theme
   - Allowing individuals to participate
   - Everybody engaging with a story e.g through actions
   - Oracy discussion
3. Prayer and quiet reflection

   All acts of Collective Worship in school should include an opportunity for prayer and quiet reflection which will include:
   - The learning of prayers in the Anglican tradition e.g. The Lord's Prayer & the prayer of St. Richard of Chichester
   - Opportunities for children to write their own prayers
   - Prayers using music and repetition such as Taize songs
   - The use of a focal point, such as lighting of a candle, to enhance opportunities for prayer, silence and listening.
   - Prayer by individuals in a time of quiet
   - Prayer led by the worship leader
   - Prayer with hands together or open

- Use of school's own prayer
- Use of prayer spaces to Prayer Spaces which give opportunities for children to pause, reflect and explore big questions about life, themselves and the world around them.

4 Sending out

- Signal the end of worship with a liturgical response such as: Go in the peace of Christ Thanks be to God – The Lord be with you – and also with you (with optional sign language)

Aims of Collective Worship

Through our collective worship, we aim to develop the following:
Sense of awe, wonder and mystery
Sense of transience and constant change
Sense of pattern, order and purpose (everything's all right)
Awareness of personal worth, uniqueness and identity.
Awareness of others as feeling, thinking persons – relationships.
Awareness of community, its demands, values, rituals and celebrations.
Awareness of achievement, celebrations and joy.
Awareness of loss, sadness and suffering.
Awareness that life involves choices: outgoing, selfish, right, wrong, good and evil.

Community Engagement with Worship

We endeavour to set an atmosphere for school worship that includes and engages all members of the community that will:

- be warm and welcoming;
- be peaceful and calm, yet vibrant and alive;
- enable all to express and share thoughts and feelings – or choose not to;
- allow for a secure and comfortable knowledge that each person will be valued and respected.

The presence of adults supports a positive message about the importance of worship and underlines the importance of the life of the school. It also enables teachers to ensure that the content is sensitively followed up. The school welcomes visitors to school worship and assemblies and parents are invited to take part in school worship and assemblies, and at the special events held in St Pancras Church.

Prayer During the School Day

A collection of prayers is available which include those written by children, set prayers, graces used before lunch, and prayers used by classes at the end of the day.

Prayers will be said daily in the school during the act of worship and sometimes when appropriate in other areas of the school day/life. If children have no faith, and choose not to pray, they are encouraged to quietly reflect during this time and respect the views of the others who are praying.

Hymns and Music

Various areas should be considered when selecting the hymns and songs:

• singing during worship allows children to become involved rather than passive observers of the worship;
• the repertoire of hymns/songs must be carefully considered to include a variety from all traditions of Christian worship;
• the music should be selected to match the age range of the children and their vocal abilities;
• special consideration needs to be given to the use of choruses or hymns with refrains for Key Stage 1 children or non-readers;
• regular practice and learning of songs/hymns should be built into the school timetable in order to prepare for high quality worship;
• an understanding and enjoyment of music adds to the success of the worship.
Music is carefully considered from a variety of all traditions. It helps enhance the atmosphere of worship.
• build on the repertoire and lists of suitable music;
• use both recorded and live music;
• visiting musicians can add to the variety of musical expression;
• pupils play entrance and exit music to accompanying songs or hymns;

Worship Themes

The themes act as an imaginative trigger to a range of ideas and approaches that can enhance a child's spiritual development. The themes are not restrictive and allow the leader to respond to local and national situations and deviate if they believe the situation warrants it.

The following need to be considered when selecting the themes.
• **The invitation to reflect.**
Does it open up opportunities for prayer and for children to develop Christian values?
• **The relevance of the situation.**
Does it connect with the church, school, local or national calendar and events?
• **The appropriateness.**
Can it be understood by children and excite their interests?

A Community Approach

Everyone is involved in the life and work of the school and has a part to play.
Governors-are required to set aims and policies of the school and should actively promote values and expectations
Executive Headteacher and Head of School – must advise the governing body on the educational provision within the school and account for the impact of that provision on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
Teaching staff - must ensure that the aims and values of the school are promoted through every aspect of the school life
Non-teaching staff – should be aware of the values and expectations of the school and promote them to pupils
Pupils – should know what is expected of them and how they can contribute
Parents – should be encouraged to show commitment and loyalty to the school through the home-school agreement/partnership.

Planning for School Worship

The 6 Christian Values are used as the basis for all planning for Collective Worship for each term. In addition to this Picture News and iSingPop resources are used by staff to plan collective worship, be it in whole-school or in-class. Planned opportunities for Worship Leaders to lead collective worship and services held at St Pancras Church are considered. The nature and forms of worship must be closely related to the needs, experiences and development of the children if is to convey any meaning. We aim to plan our worship around themes with the children's participation. Within such planning, there is a place for children to be introduced to quiet times, prayers of 'thank you', hymns and songs appropriate to their age and to the worship patterns.

Long Term Planning

This will include a programme of worship themes, based on our six values: hope, courage, perseverance, responsibility, compassion and forgiveness.
Collective Worship will take into account special occasions and/or services we at Iford and Kingston wish to mark. We will use the church calendar to plan, taking into consideration the composition of the group, place of worship and the leadership of the worship times.

Evaluation and Monitoring

The Foundation governors, the Executive Headteacher and the Head of School are responsible for the monitoring of this policy. This will be done by:

- Attending acts of worship on different days and at different times of the school year.
- Discussions with staff and pupils
- Reference to the collective worship record file

Evaluation Success criteria

- Pupils enter and leave the hall in an orderly fashion.
- The atmosphere is such that it is conducive to worship.
- The act of worship is well planned.
- Elements identified in the policy are observable within the act of worship.
- Collective Worship is seen as an enjoyable occasion.

Children evaluate collective worship on a termly basis. This is facilitated through iSingPop in-class collective worship where time is dedicated to this. Worship Leaders in KS2 support children in Early Years and KS1 with this. They also discuss their responses to the questions

Was the weekly theme clear?
Was there a link to the Bible?
Was there an appropriate hymn or song?
Were you involved in the Acts of Worship eg answering questions?
Did you have time to pause and reflect on the message?
What did you learn from this week's collective worship?
What links can you draw with anything else you have been learning/with life?

What puzzles or questions does this week's worship raise?

The school will be inspected regularly by an accredited section 28 inspector when it receives its SIAMS Inspection. This will assist in the monitoring process.

Organisation
We have daily acts of worship that take place each morning.

Timetable Leader
Monday – (Head of School) Values
Tuesday - Oracy Collective Worship – 2 classes discussion about Christian Value for term led by Class Teachers - Rest of school use iSingPop in class collective worship
Wednesday – Music Celebration – Mrs Anne Pettifer
Thursday – Picture News and Christian Values – Mrs Annie Clarry, RE Lead
Friday – All Staff - Whole School Celebration Collective Worship – Parents invited to attend

The Education Act 1996 / withdrawal from Worship

"All pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of collective worship' unless 'the parent……requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship in the school".

The DfE advise that any withdrawals are put in writing to the Headteacher with a reason as to why the child is withdrawn. However, this is not a legal requirement. If a child is withdrawn from worship sessions, the class teacher needs to be informed. During the worship session, class teachers are required to supervise any children who have been withdrawn however are not required to provide any work for the children. Parents need to provide their children with an alternative to worship – this could be philosophical questions to consider, mindful colouring, or Aquila magazine.

The act of worship will take place daily. It may take place with the whole school, in class groups or other groupings of pupils. In accordance with the 1998 Education Act the act of worship may in special occasions take place elsewhere in the school.

Resources to support Collective Worship
Picture News – weekly resource invoking a Christian response to news events from around the world
iSingPop – weekly web-based resource based on Christian values and teachings
Oracy based PPTs for each Christian Value saved in Assembly Drive.
Hymns and Lyrics saved in Assembly Drive.