



Egton Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Policy for Collective Act of Worship

Effective Date:	November 2019
Date Due for Review:	November 2022
Approved By:	Governing Body
Approval Date:	19 th November 2019



Collective Worship Policy

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."
John 10:10.

Egton Church of England School is a small, distinctively Christian, family based learning community; therefore, Collective Worship plays a vital part in the school day in promoting the Christian aims, values and ethos of the school. The quote from John 10:10 underpins our mission as a Church of England primary school, deeply rooted in strong Christian tradition:

'Inspire learning and develop children's potential as individuals in a caring, happy and distinctively Christian family.'

Together with our school strapline:

'Learning and Growing together with God.'

Rationale

Worship is at the heart of the Egton CE Primary School life and is seen as an essential part of the whole school's education. Worship inspires all members of our school family to live their lives through our core Christian Values:

TRUST

Trust in the Lord and do good. *Psalm 37.3*

FRIENDSHIP

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity *Psalm 135.1*

RESPECT

In everything, do to others what you would have them do you. *Matthew 7.12*

Learning and Growing Together with God



Worship in our school aspires to be inclusive, inspirational and accessible to all. It consistently reflects our distinct Christian vision, values and ethos and is delivered in a well organised, resourced and planned approach. It is monitored and evaluated regularly and effectively as part of the school's cycle of review.

Collective Worship has a distinct and special time in the day.

We endeavour to provide genuine experiences of Christian worship that are creative, stimulating and reflect a broad range of approaches. Collective Worship encompasses the breadth of the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. 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. We encourage both our young people and adults to engage with big questions about life and faith. It is attended by pupils and staff. Governors, parents and any visitors to school are welcome to join.

As part of our Collective Worship content will include:

- Events in the church year
- Central symbols of Christianity
- Importance of prayer
- Central place of the bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance
- Christian values

During our school day there are other distinct times of prayer such as beginning and end of the day and the lunchtime grace.

Aims

It is our aim at Egton C of E Primary School that worship should:

- Be engaging, inspiring, enjoyable, enriching and enlivening
- Be inclusive and aim to respect each individual's integrity.
- To enable children to explore a variety of forms of worship, so that those with a religious faith may have their experience of worship deepened and broadened and so that those without faith may begin to **GROW WITH GOD**
- Offer opportunities to worship God and share Christian stories which underpin the Christian values and ethos of our school.
- Have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- Reflect on some of the practices and traditions of the local churches (Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic) and celebrate festivals in the church year (both UK and worldwide).
- Challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey.
- Offer opportunities for reflection, prayer, music, drama, symbols and silence.
- Offer opportunities for children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to".



- To celebrate achievements and special occasions.
- To develop a sense of community within our school family and of being a part of a wider Christian community – locally, nationally and globally

Collective Worship in our school is invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

Planning of Collective Worship

Whole School Worship is held 5 times a week. These are taken by the three class teachers. Visitors include Reverend Paul, Reader Jane McFarlane amongst others. The Children's Worship team also take Collective Worship once every two weeks in line with our themes. Specific time is planned for this and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark this special time by lighting three 'trinity' candles whilst saying "We light these candles in the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit".

The way in which worship is organised ensures each leader leading worship plans with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4 stage structure of planning including 'Gathering', 'Engaging' 'Responding' and 'Sending'. There should also be space for evaluation. Leaders of worship make appropriate adjustments to their delivery to ensure that they meet the needs of different age groups. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning leading and monitoring of Collective worship. Collective worship is timetabled in a two week thematic cycle.

The Governor of the Month often has a role monitoring Collective worship.

A number of resources are used through Collective Worship and leader often use the 'Roots and Fruits' material for inspiration or guidance.

Acts of worship generally follow themes that are linked to the schools vision and values and follows the pattern of the church's year.

Content

Collective Worship at Egton C of E Primary School is time dedicated to the spiritual aspects of each individual, this may be through spending time to simply reflect, for other members of our school family is it spent in God's presence, recognising who God is.

Our Worship often consists of thinking, listening, reflecting and stillness. Music, stories, video clips and outdoor activities as well as other areas of focus are key in our worship, providing an engaging and vibrant experience.



In planning Collective Worship, we take into account the Church of England and York Diocese guidance. We include events from the church calendar as well as other important events such as Remembrance week. We aim to link worship back to the school's vision and mission statement. We cover key Christian themes such as; Friendship; Humility, Respect and Reverence, Compassion and Forgiveness, we strive to demonstrate these throughout our school and home lives. Acts of worship begin with 'The Lord is here', 'His spirit is with us', and ends with a prayer spoken by both the children and teacher. Both the Bible and prayer are fundamental to all acts of our worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on a termly basis.

All who deliver worship will be observed at least annually. This process supports the school's self-evaluation, is a specific responsibility of the Ethos Team and is reported to the whole governing body.

Pupils are also involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in weekly class worship.

All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children and staff to attend Collective Worship. However, Under The 1988 Education Act, parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship in all schools. Collective Worship forms an integral part of the ethos and curriculum in Church Aided schools and the importance of the subject should be emphasised to prospective parents. It is hoped that all children, regardless of religious affiliation will be able to benefit from our worship together. The views of parents who wish to withdraw their children from this part of the school day will be respected in our school, however, parents should understand that the worship and religious education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England. This foundation is reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of



England ethos, removal of pupils from worship and R.E. will not insulate them from the religious life of the school.

Inclusion

Egton Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School upholds an Equal Opportunities Policy. All parents will be offered the opportunity for their children to participate in Collective Acts of Worship activities, with provision being made for children with special requirements. E.g. Disabilities requiring assistance for practical activities.

Appendix

Learning and Growing Together with God



A. Collective Worship Structure.

At the start of Worship:

Teacher "The Lord is here". Children: "His Spirit is with us".

Light the three trinity candles.

Everyone: "We light these candles in the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit."

Gathering	The mood Certain pieces of music Refer to focus Reflecting on previous Collective Worships Outdoor Worships Semi-Circle formation Shaking of hands
Engaging	Main message Puppets What's in the bag? Poem Talking partners Thoughts Music Plays Questions Stories Challenge
Responding	Story / Song Breathing prayer Like to person experience Children's prayers Discussion Prayer Reflection time Silent reflection 'Doing' Prayer
Sending	Completion One thing you will take away from today's Worship? Walking out to music 3 children to 'blow out' the candles.

Inclusive. Invitational. Inspiring

B. Collective Worship Planner

Learning and Growing Together with God



Outstanding Worship Planner – Egton CE VA Primary School

Date:	Time:	Leader
Theme: <i>(is the theme from the long term CW planner or a reactive 'one off')</i>		Linked to previous worship session?
Aim and Impact:		
Content: <i>(stimuli, storytelling, questioning, visual aids and props)</i> Gathering: Engaging: Responding: Sending:		Checklist: Inclusive to all Focal point: Worship Table, symbol/object/picture... Atmosphere created – entry ordered, respectful, expectant Spiritual stimulus: poetry/art/dance/story/variety Time for personal reflection and response Children actively involved and contributing – explore, encounter, experience Use of worship candle-clear distinction between worship and assembly/notice giving Appropriate pace and timing
What if.../Enquiry Question/Stimulus		
Religious/Anglican Dimension/Distinctively Christian/Gospel/Other Faith element?		Is there an opportunity for the theme to continue through the day/week?
Shared Reflection/Prayer <i>(is there a balance of music, speech and silence?)</i>		
Music (entry and exit and hymn/song) <i>(is there a balance of music, speech and silence?)</i>		
Evaluation:		

C. Collective Worship Record

Learning and Growing Together with God



Egton CE VA Primary School
Act of Collective Worship Record

Week Beginning:	Theme:	
Day	Staff Initials	Content e.g. title of story, poem, talk, song, etc and biblical /liturgical reference
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Evaluation:		

D. Collective Worship Year Planner

Learning and Growing Together with God



Collective Worship Planner - Egton CE VA Primary School 2019-20			
Year:	Autumn	Spring	Summer
	SEAL - New Beginnings	SEAL - Say No to Bullying Getting on and falling out	SEAL - Going for Goals
Week 1	Friendship 02.09	Respect and Reverence 06.01 Epiphany	Hope 20.04
Week 2	09.09	13.01	27.04
Week 3	Truthfulness 16.09	Compassion 20.01	Creativity 04.05
Week 4	23.09	27.01	11.05
Week 5	Thankfulness / Harvest 30.09 Harvest Festival Blessing and Service Egton 3 rd 6.30pm	Forgiveness 03.02	18.05 <u>Perseverance</u>
Week 6	07.10	10.02	
Week 7	Humility 14.10		
Week 8	21.10		

Collective Worship Planner - Egton CE VA Primary School 2019-20			
Year:	Autumn	Spring	Summer
HALF TERM	SEAL - Good to Be Me	SEAL - Relationships Getting on and Falling out	SEAL - Changes
Week 9	Service 04.11	Trust 24.02 Fast Forward 4 th	Perseverance (2 nd wk) 01.06
Week 10	11.11	02.03	Peace 08.06
Week 11	Generosity 18.11 18 th Nov St Hilda's Day Service @ Danby	Responsibility 09.03	15.06
Week 12	25.11	16.03	Wisdom and Justice 22.06
Week 13	Advent 02.12	Courage 23.03 Worshiping the Living Stones	29.07
Week 14	Christmas 09.12	Easter 30.03 Easter Service (School 'Holy Week')	Koinonia - Fellowship 06.07
Week 15	Christmas 16.12 Crib Service and Nativity		13.07 Leaver's Service

E. Collective Worship Observation Record

Learning and Growing Together with God



Collective Worship Observation Record

Date and Time:

Present: Whole school / Class

Observer:

Worship Leader:

Theme of act of Worship:

Was the act of worship one of a series, or did it stand alone?

General Development:

How did pupils enter and leave the worship space – was there a sense of order, respect and expectation? Was there anything to mark the worship space and time as special e.g. a visual focus, (e.g. candle, worship table, display, music)? Was there a clear distinction between collective worship and assembly (i.e. notices, presentations etc)?

Setting the Atmosphere for Worship:

Was the purpose of the act of worship clear to all present, and the theme developed effectively? Were the different elements to the act of worship,

e.g. visual aids, storytelling, questioning, all carried through effectively? Was the pace and timing appropriate?

Worship Elements:

Was there a balance of music, speech and silence? Were there opportunities for prayer and reflection? If songs or hymns were used, were they appropriate for the pupils and the theme? Did the act of worship have a clear Christian theme?

Distinctively Christian but inclusive of all:

Was the act of worship clearly linked to the Christian Gospel? Was there any reference to other faith communities or philosophical thought linking into community cohesion?

Pupil Involvement:

Was the act of worship appropriate for the age, ability and background of the pupils? Were the pupils engaged? What contribution did they make to the worship – were they in any sense worship leaders? How did / could the worship have impacted upon those present? Could it support their spiritual and moral development? Did the pupils explore, encounter, experience?

Planning:

Is it linked to the collective worship planning for the term/year?

Any other relevant commentary? E.g. feedback from pupils.



Learning and Growing Together with God