



Tadpole Farm
CE Primary Academy

Collective Worship TFCEPA Policy VN1

This Policy is a 2 level policy

DBAT policy where EITHER scope for academy specific elements OR **separate academy policy/procedures required**

This policy is to be reviewed:

Annually / **every two years** / every three years / other

Drafted by: School Office Manager in conjunction with the Premises Board Members

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Signed By:	 Chair of Local Board	 School Principal
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Tadpole Farm CE Primary Academy

Collective Worship

Policy

Policy Statement

At Tadpole Farm CE Primary Academy, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our vision.

The Academy Vision is a simple statement of the type of academy we are aiming to create. In some aspects it is a reflection of what we have already achieved, in others it is a statement of how we would like to develop the academy. The academy Vision gives a focus to everything that we do and underpins all the decisions we make. Tadpole Farm CE Primary Academy is:

- a **community living** and learning through Christian values
- a **place of friendship**; a partnership between children, parents, staff, Local Board members, the Church, the DBAT family of academies and the community as a whole.
- a **compassionate place** where the individuality, gifts and talents of all children and adults are nurtured
- a stimulating environment where children enjoy **achieving full potential** in their academic, creative, personal, physical, moral and spiritual development
- an innovative Church academy, where **exploring and asking** great questions is part of everyday life
- a place where a love of **learning grows** through all we do

Collective worship is a time when we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our world together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values, which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Christian Values and Values Education

The 12 core values we will study and aim to live on a daily basis are *Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness, Friendship, Generosity, Justice, Perseverance, Respect, Service, Thankfulness, Trust and Truthfulness*. Whilst these may not be said to be exclusively Christian values, we will be investigating them from the teachings of the Bible and thinking about what Jesus would have done to show these values in His daily life and how we can apply His teachings to how we live today. We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

As well as Bible based reflections, we will also be looking at those of other faiths and those of none and how they live these values in their daily lives. We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Principal. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday – Whole School worship – led by a member of the school community, introducing focus for the week

Tuesday - Class Worship – taking the focus for the week and relating this directly to how the focus impacts on the lives of the children

Wednesday – House Worship – mixed age worship for reflection and children leading worship

Thursday – Visitor and singing worship – using our voices to reflect on the focus for the week

Friday – Celebration Worship – reflecting on the week and celebrating those who have gone above and beyond in living the values

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship.

The assembly/worship should last approximately 15 minutes.

Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for collective worship reflect our Values focus for that month, the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events. The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music for the week. This may be played by a child; something the children come in singing to to become part of something greater than ourselves, it may be a reflective piece of music. As the school grows the worship team will take on a role in this area. The candles on the focus table are lit and the worship begins, sometimes with the children singing a hymn. The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with a prayer. The candles are then blown out before any messages are given. This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers is used including the 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 is also displayed above or on the altar table.

Teachers make an individual decision about whether to say grace at lunchtime; a prayer with their class at the end of the school day - but all teachers ensure that there is time in the day for quiet reflection. Each classroom has a reflection area and children are encouraged to use the area for prayers or thinking times. Sometimes these are related to the Value for the Month, on other occasions this could be a personal prayer.

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

Planning is kept on a shared drive and evaluations are through the community living the values in daily practice. Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship.

Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, we ensure 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.

Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues

Children may be withdrawn from collective at the wish of their parents. The Principal will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils. Parents are invited to join collective worship at least once a term.

Equal Opportunities and special needs issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of the content of collective worship.