



Collective Worship Policy

2025

Policy Date: March 2025

Approved by: Ethos Committee

Next review date: March 2027

The Collective Worship Policy at Holsworthy C of E Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE.

As a Church of England school our Collective worship is planned termly in line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. There is a clear focus on Christian beliefs, theological concepts, values and festivals.

The Collective Worship Policy of Holsworthy C of E Primary School is consistent with the vision of 'Working together, growing together, all to flourish' and aligns with our values of 'Respect, Love, Responsibility, Wisdom, Integrity and Grit.' Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

"To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God". William Temple (1881- 1894)

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Collective Worship – A Time to Breathe

Collective worship in Holsworthy Church of England Primary School provides an opportunity for everyone to stop, gather, reflect and share. It is a time of the school day to be set apart and valued, where members of the school community can meet in an inclusive and invitational manner, to worship God.

All schools are required by law to provide pupils with a daily act of collective worship regardless of whether or not they are a Church school. The difference with church schools lies in the fact that all acts of worship must be Christian. The whole school community involves all pupils and all staff, unless they have sought the right to withdraw from acts of worship.

Collective worship will be:

Inclusive: In the Church school pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. This will involve meeting, exploring, questioning and responding to others and, for some, to God.

Invitational: Parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There should be no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship should provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity.

Inspiring: Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter in a Church school to be inspirational. Worship should be formational and transformational: it should enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It should motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions.

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School: Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Holsworthy C of E Primary School, and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times

- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

For the Pupils: We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship God
- reflect on that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reflect on the direction of their lives
- reinforce positive attitudes participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human
- consider the wonders and worries of the world

The Management of Collective Worship

A member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) monitors and evaluates acts of collective worship alongside the Adult and Pupil Ethos Committee. Collective worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall, the classroom or on the school grounds. Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 20 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate. Every member of the Senior Leadership team and regular visitors, including Rev'd Alision and Open The Book, will be involved in leading acts of worship at different points in the school year. The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. Termly planning themes link to festivals in the local church year, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Systematic planning ensures that there is continuity and progression, to enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.

Delivering Worship

	PLUG IN This is about awakening the children. We use stimuli to awaken the children and allow them time to prepare for the Worship. We use appropriate music (linked to the Worship), an altar and stillness. We light the candle to indicate the start of Worship, and a liturgy to invite the children to join us. 'Welcome to our worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you.' The children respond with 'And also with you.' <i>"Stillness is the altar of spirit" Paramahansa Yogananda(1893-1952)</i>
---	---

	SWITCH ON This is about engaging the children. It will usually focus on a particular story, use of scripture, article, drama or message. Using different approaches and involving different people will provide variety in worship. The material should be presented in an appealing and age-appropriate way. Visual aids and artefacts can provide useful to illustrate key points and help the children to remember the message. <i>"The fact that I can plant a seed and it becomes a flower, share a bit of knowledge and it becomes another's, smile at someone and receive a smile in return, are to me a continual spiritual journey"- Leo Buscaglia</i>
	LIGHT UP This is about allowing the children to reflect and respond. It must include an opportunity for the pupils to reflect on what the worship means to them and how they can turn it into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. This may be a prayer, key question, or guided reflection. Silence can allow time for individual thought and deeper reflection. <i>"Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light" Albus Dumbledore (J.K. Rowling)</i>

Right of Withdrawal

We hope that by adopting an inclusive stance, collective worship, will be broadly accepted by a wide variety of people. Many parents see the provision of acts of worship by Holsworthy CofE Primary School as part of its expression of care for the well-being of its pupils. However, there may be occasions when a parent insists on their right to withdraw their children from collective worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from attending an act or acts of collective worship. Parents should make their wishes known to the headteacher who will arrange that any pupils who are withdrawn will be supervised appropriately during the acts of collective worship. Holsworthy CofE Primary School will ensure that parents who want to withdraw their children from collective worship are aware of the programme and its intention to be open to, and respectful of, all pupils' personal beliefs. They should be given the opportunity

to discuss this, if they wish. Holsworthy CofE Primary School will review such a request each year, in discussion with the parents.