



**Branscombe CE Primary School, Broadhembury CE Primary School,  
Farway CE Primary School, Littleham CE Primary School and  
Woodbury Salterton CE Primary School**

**Policy for Collective Worship**

Responsible for review	
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Due for review: Spring	Approved by Governing body on	Head teacher signature	Chair of Governors signature
2021			
2022			
2023			

**Introduction**

In the schools of The Jubilee with Pebblebed Federation (Branscombe C of E Primary, Broadhembury C of E Primary School, Farway C of E Primary School, Littleham C of E Primary School and Woodbury Salterton C of E Primary School) we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school. As well as teaching the Christian message, it is also an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children.

**Aims**

The central aims of Collective Worship throughout The Jubilee with Pebblebed Federation are :

- To share with participants some of the central teachings of the Christian faith at an appropriate level, and thereby give them the encouragement to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework.
- To enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God, and to the community, and to respect the integrity of each individual as a child made in the image of God.
- To establish, explore, and reinforce the common Christian values of the school community such as love, peace, kindness, compassion, forgiveness.
- To provide our children with regular opportunities for stillness and reflection.

- To promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To celebrate the values and worth of the school community and all who belong in it, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of our children.
- To help children develop an understanding both of the nature and language of worship including symbols, liturgy and imagery and to provide opportunities for self expression and creativity in worship
- To help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others.
- To support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication.
- To encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues.

### **Collective worship**

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion where the purpose is to show reverence to God.

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our schools. This forms part of each assembly, which is normally a whole-school assembly.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. As children come into Collective Worship calming music should be played (using music from the federation 'music spine'). We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. A candle is lit during these times which is placed on a focus table with other artefacts. An interactive display based on the current Collective Worship theme is in the school entrance hall or classrooms.

The Head of Learning, school staff or the Vicar normally conduct assemblies. The Anglican Church is a worldwide church with a strong commitment to Ecumenism therefore as a Church of England school we feel free to draw upon appropriate materials from other Christian Churches in collective worship, as well as inviting Christian visitors to lead collective worship on occasions. We also encourage our pupils to take part in the worship as much as possible by reading from the Bible, leading prayers, acting a short drama sketch. There is also a planned programme of opportunities for pupils to plan whole acts of worship.

We take the themes of our assemblies in part from the Values for Life/Roots and Fruits publications which are endorsed by The Church of England. Values such as courage, hope, peace are covered by this scheme and one value is concentrated on in worship each half term as well as focusing on the life and teaching of Jesus. We believe these values are clearly Christian in nature but are universal in their application. We have purchased additional resources within the Values for Life publications which expand on linked Bible stories which we had felt needed extra focus. The values being covered within Collective Worship may also link to areas being studied in our PSHE work. Collective Worship will also follow the traditions of the Christian faith and often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We also use key themes which include love, joy, trust, forgiveness, justice and the value of human life. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

We recognise that in our schools we have children from a variety of faith backgrounds and that many children have no religious background at all. Great care is taken in our collective worship to ensure that all children feel valued and special and that their integrity as human beings is consistently upheld. Collective Worship within The Jubilee with Pebblebed Federation is an inclusive activity.

Our assemblies, which are separate from our Acts of Worship, reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. We shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

We have positive links with the local Churches in Branscombe, Broadhembury, Farway, Exmouth and Woodbury Salterton - the clergy and congregations. The schools participate in major festivals in church with special services. Across our five schools there are regular services in church. Some of the schools hold termly Eucharist Services. The children help to prepare this, choosing readings and the thematic/seasonal words which can be included in the Eucharistic prayer. Some of the schools enjoy members of the parish coming into school regularly to run 'Open the Book' worship. At the end of the academic year all Year 6 leavers are presented with a Bible from the Governors and PCCs.

We invite parents and the local community to the monthly/weekly church services and to festival services. This promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

### **The Legal Position**

Arrangements for collective worship in a Church School are the responsibility of the governors in consultation with the Executive Headteacher. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act there are three main legal requirements for collective worship:

- Collective worship in a Church School should be carried out in accordance with the school's founding Trust Deed, and in accordance with the School's Ethos Statement, which is to be found in the statutory Instrument of Government.
- The school must provide an act of collective worship for all pupils every day. Furthermore, acts of worship "must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, i.e. reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief". This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class unit.
- Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship on religious grounds. (The 'religious grounds' do not have to be justified and explained by the parents). Parents who have any concerns about the provision and practice of our Collective Worship are strongly encouraged to contact the Executive Headteacher. Should children be withdrawn adequate supervision will be provided to ensure their safety during the period in which the worship takes place. The Executive Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

It should be noted that staff who withdraw children from collective worship (e.g. additional reading, intervention groups, music lessons) are breaking the law!

### **Context of Collective Worship**

In order to promote children's learning, our acts of worship vary in size. Our general pattern is set out below:

#### ***Branscombe***

- Monday - Introduction of aspect of Value and Praise assembly (Class teacher)
- Tuesday - Extension of Value theme in class / key stage assemblies led by Class teachers (this may include completion of pages of reflective journals)
- Wednesday - Extension of Value theme (Class teacher or Head of Learning), OR a focus on themes of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation in line with our status as a Cross of Nails School.
- Thursday - Extension of Value theme (Class teacher or Head of Learning or vicar)
- Friday - Worship led by children (on value theme) or extension of Value theme by teacher or Head of Learning ALSO Sharing Assembly later in the day

#### ***Broadhembury***

- Monday - Introduction of aspect of Value and Praise assembly (Class teacher)
- Tuesday - Extension of Value theme (Class teacher or Head of Learning)
- Wednesday - Extension of Value theme (Class teacher or Head of Learning), OR a focus on themes of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation in line with our status as a Cross of Nails School.
- Thursday - Extension of Value theme in Church (Class teacher or Vicar)
- Friday - Worship led by children (on value theme) or extension of Value theme by teacher or Head of Learning ALSO Sharing Assembly later in the day

#### ***Farway***

- Monday - Introduction of aspect of Value and Praise assembly (Class teacher)
- Tuesday - Extension of Value theme (Class teacher or Head of Learning)
- Wednesday - Extension of Value theme – (Class teacher or Head of Learning)
- Thursday - Worship led by children (on value theme) or extension of Value theme by teacher or Head of Learning
- Friday - Extension of Value theme usually in Church (vicar) ALSO Sharing Assembly later in the day

#### ***Littleham***

- Monday - Introduction of aspect of Value (Head of Learning)
- Tuesday - Extension of Value theme (Class Teacher)
- Wednesday - Extension of Value theme – (Church Youth Worker or Vicar or Class teacher)
- Thursday - Extension of Value theme (Class Teacher)
- Friday - Extension of Value theme (Class Teacher) ALSO Celebration assembly

#### ***Woodbury Salterton***

- Monday - Whole School Worship in Church – variety of leaders e.g. Head of Learning, ICE, Vicar, Pupils

- Tuesday - Extension of Value theme and worship through hymns (Rota of teachers or with church organist)
- Wednesday - Extension of Value theme – (Head of Learning with Children leading)
- Thursday - Extension of Value theme – (Rota of Teachers)
- Friday - Extension of Value theme – (Rota of Teachers) ALSO Celebration  
Worship in Church

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship. We record our acts of worship to inform our learning and plan for further developments – the proforma in Appendix 1 should be used daily.

### **How Do We Ensure Our Assemblies Are Collective Worship?**

It is still customary in the majority of schools for teachers and pupils alike to use the term ‘assembly’ when they are referring to the ‘act of collective worship’. This accepted shorthand should not be allowed to blind us to the differences between the two activities. Schools frequently assemble for a common purpose. There may be a visiting theatre company in school, or the need to give out important notices or deal with matters of common concern; not every assembly is an act of collective worship.

In essence the purpose of most school assemblies is to gather the school for collective worship followed by the sharing of notices. In this scenario, pupils withdrawn from collective worship should rejoin the rest of the school for the assembly notices. There are many elements which worship and assembly have in common, such as helping children to develop common standards and values, or to develop an awareness of, and a concern for, the needs of others. However, the presence of these common elements alone does not turn an assembly into an act of collective worship. It is a mistake to assume that, for example, inviting a charity worker to address the school during the ‘collective worship slot’ is collective worship. In each and every act of collective worship some of the elements of worship (i.e. of ‘giving worth to God’) must be present.

***An Assembly may include Collective Worship.  
Not every Assembly is Collective Worship.***

### **Monitoring and review**

It is the role of the ex-officio governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.

### **Conclusion**

Collective worship plays a central role in a Church School. It models the school’s Christian ethos and values, and proclaims its Church School identity. In collective worship, children and adults will be responding to the worship in different ways and at different levels. Some will be passive observers, learning about worship but not participating in it; some will be ‘at the threshold’, interested in the process and participating in it but not full believers; for others the act of collective worship may be a time of real worship of God. It is the task of collective worship within The Jubilee with Pebblebed Federation to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised but in which everyone finds something positive for themselves.



Appendix 1



Jubilee with Pebblebed Federation

School _____
Value _____
Theme _____

Collective worship planning sheet							
Week Beginning:	Content – Including Bible reference	Hymn	Prayer	Pupil Involvement	Resources	Cross-curricular links	Evaluation
Monday Leader:							
Tuesday Leader:							
Wednesday Leader:							
Thursday Leader:							
Friday Leader:							



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Appendix 2

**Guidelines to be given to Visitors to lead Collective Worship**

A few things to think about for those asked to lead collective worship.

- Do find out who will attend the collective worship - the whole school, or just part of it.
- Do find out how long you are allowed to speak for (10-12 minutes).
- Do find out about the school's aims, ethos and policies, and plan your involvement accordingly.
- Do find out which theme the school is presently following in collective worship, what they have done already and will do in the rest of the term.
- Do find out whether pupils and staff are used to being involved in activities, should you wish them to be so.
- Do be willing to share your own experiences, beliefs and insights without imposing them on the children.
- Do prepare thoroughly - a ten minute presentation which addresses the needs and variety of backgrounds of pupils has to be carefully thought out, and should always begin by making a real connection with the children's world.
- Do help pupils by making clear to the children who you are, who you represent and what you are offering them.
- Do be willing to respect and value the faith and beliefs of the children and young people when it is different to your own.
- Do help pupils by allowing them time for silence in which they may think, reflect and respond at their own level, and from their own point.
- Do remember the difference between collective and corporate worship. A school assembly is not the appropriate venue for strong evangelism.
- Do adopt a variety of approaches in each act of worship or within each series of acts.
- Introduce them on a variety of occasions to the breadth of Christian experiences and practices.
- Do try to use a variety of learning styles.
- Do treat the children with respect.
- Do enable the children to worship.
- Do make sure your material and presentation is age appropriate.
- Do avoid assuming that pupils' presence at worship signifies their personal commitment or involvement. You should not impose on pupils words or



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attitudes which they cannot honestly express. Your task is not to compel worship, but to enable it.

- Do visit the school before leading an act of worship. Arrange to meet the head for a discussion of the school's policy and procedures, and if possible, be present at an act of worship in the school.