

Curry Rivel Church of England Primary School



‘Healthy trees bearing good fruit’ – Matthew 7 v 17

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

**Agreed by Full Governors January 2025
Review January 2026**

At Curry Rivel Church of England Primary School we nurture our children to flourish and grow. We have chosen a tree to symbolise our vision and values. The tree represents our school, the fruit our children living out our core values, all rooted in Jesus’ teachings, our church and Diocese, and the local and wider community. Building on these core ‘5-a-day’ Christian values of forgiveness, kindness, respect, thankfulness and perseverance we care for each other and our world. We develop resilience, confidence, creativity and independence through our innovative and diverse curriculum, inspiring and motivating everyone to thrive. Our core Christian values underpin our school, providing the best possible environment for these fruit to grow and ripen within our children and whole community

Our collective worship both implicitly, and explicitly, demonstrates our Christian values of **forgiveness, kindness, respect, thankfulness and perseverance.**

At Curry Rivel Church of England Primary School we consider collective worship to be an important part of the school day. An opportunity to reflect and develop the school’s distinctive Christian character but also an opportunity to contribute to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of pupils and staff.

Aims of our acts of collective worship.

We aim for our collective worship to:

- a) Be a daily expression of our school’s Christian vision.
- b) Be inclusive, invitational and inspiring for all pupils, staff and parents and visitors
- c) Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- d) Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- e) Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today’s world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.

- f) Enable pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to guidance and/or training.
- g) Encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

Collective worship includes opportunities for

- a) the whole community to celebrate;
- b) sharing and experiencing differences;
- c) developing a culture of learning;
- d) building a sense of group identity;
- e) encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- f) a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);
- g) learning how to behave in a large social group;
- h) exploring feelings and emotions;
- i) learning how to perform in front of an audience;
- j) learning how to respond to a performance;
- k) making visible the school's leadership;
- l) developing inner awareness.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body to provide a daily act of collective worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and Foundation. The school meets with requirement. This requirement is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus and handbook. NB. In a controlled school (or if they were first employed when the school was a controlled school), staff have the right to withdraw from the act of collective worship.

It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents or teachers contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

Organisation of Worship

- Monday's worship is delivered to the whole school by the Headteacher (or Senior Teacher in their absence)
- Tuesday's worship is planned by the Headteacher for the Lower school and is led by the Head Teacher or Senior Teacher
- Wednesday's worship is planned by the Headteacher for the Upper school and is led by the Head Teacher or Senior Teacher
- Thursday's worship is 'singing worship' or minister led worship (Each month 'Open the Book' is presented by local parishioners)
- Friday's worship is an opportunity to celebrate achievements and to praise God for all He provides us with. This is delivered by the head teacher (or another delegated teacher)

The school assembles for worship at St Andrew's Church on a number of special occasions during the year – some of these are open to visitors such as parents etc who are welcome to come along and share the experience as well as celebrate the children's achievements.

Themes

Themes are planned on a half- termly basis with flexibility built in for visitors, unusual current events, crises, disasters etc. but are not set in stone in order that we reflect God's ability through us to meet our needs as and when necessary, and not according to a schedule.

- The headteacher considers reflections and prayers from the pupils and community in order to bring individuals / circumstances etc. before God and as such care for each other and those in the school / church community.
- We take the themes of our Collective Worship from a variety of sources including The Diocese of Guildford, The Diocese of Rochester; BigStart Assemblies and SSPK website.
- We also use 'No Outsiders' resources to promote our culture of 'Everybody different, everybody welcome'
- Often themes are planned to reflect the current needs of the children, to reflect current worldwide issues and are also planned to promote our 5-a-day Christian values
- In addition, each term the festivals and events of the Christian calendar are included.

Visitors

We welcome visitors to our collective worship. Some visitors are invited to share their experiences, linked to the theme of the collective worship, other visitors present a whole collective worship on a theme requested by the Headteacher. We welcome Rev Mark McKnight (Church of England), Rev Matt Cottingham (Baptist Church) and Jeff Cracknell (Low Ham Chapel)

Visitors should understand that in schools **E** is for **Education** not **Evangelism** and avoid proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause without the prior permission of the headteacher.

Governors

We welcome Governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

Monitoring, Review and Inspection

It is the role of the Governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.

The content and brief self-evaluation by the person leading the worship are recorded in a folder, which is kept in the Head Teacher's office.

The Ethos and Values Committee seeks feedback from the children and staff about collective worship each term.

The School will also be inspected through Section 48 SIAMS inspection.