

## Collective Acts of Worship Policy

This policy was revisited:	<b>January 2019</b>
Review Cycle:	<b>Two Years</b>
Next review due:	<b>January 2021</b>

### General Statement

Rauceby Primary Academy is a Church of England Primary School. Collective worship is an integral part of the school day and gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. At Rauceby Church of England Primary Academy we recognise that collective worship provides an opportunity to develop all of our children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding.

Within our Collective Worship we aim to develop the children's understanding of our five core Church School Christian Values: **EQUALITY, FORGIVENESS, KINDNESS, ASPIRATION** and **HONESTY**, along with their understanding of the teachings of the Christian faith.

The Collective Worship Policy at Rauceby Church of England Primary Academy pays due regard to statutory requirements of Collective Worship in Primary Schools. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', and in recognition of the fact that the majority of our pupils are practising members of other faiths we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths.

We acknowledge the legal requirements stated in the 1988 Education reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (10), which state 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. The school will make arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for the withdrawal. The Head Teacher will keep a record of all children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship. All staff, including the teachers and Head Teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship.

The Collective Worship Policy of Rauceby Church of England Primary Academy is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school. Collective Worship is conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school so that all feel comfortable to attend the worship.

### 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.

### Aims of Collective Worship

#### For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos and values of Rauceby Church of England Primary Academy 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 fragility of the world

**The Act of Collective Worship**

Any and all of the teaching methods employed in the classroom may also be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources may also be used. Leaders of the Collective Worship will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

Collective Worship will be organised as either whole school, or in class or Key Stage groups, and will take place in either the hall, outside or in the classroom.

Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15-20 minutes, although it is recognised that this time may be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate. Collective Worship will be attended by all staff, including Teachers and Teaching Assistants, and, where practicable other support staff.

Collective Worship will consist of:

- A welcome and response – Peace be with you, [response] and also with you.
- A reading or lesson – incorporating one of the school's Christian values, or a reading from the bible
- A moment of reflection
- A prayer – this could be the School prayer; the Lord's Prayer (children and staff are *invited* to take part in the prayer but must not be forced to bow heads, hands together etc.)
- A song – this can be a hymn or a modern song with a message that reflects the school's values and ethos

Governors, members of the local community and other school stakeholders are welcome to attend any Collective Worship. The governors will have the themes of Collective Worship circulated onto Microsoft Teams to enable them to decide on which to attend and/or monitor.

Members of the local community will be regularly invited to attend Collective Worship.

**Collective Worship Staff Timetable**

The following is a proposed timetable for the weekly Collective Worship at Rauceby Church of England Primary Academy. It is only a guide and can be adapted as necessary.

Friday Celebration Assembly will be attended by family members of those receiving awards – they will be contacted on the Wednesday preceding the assembly.

Timetable:

Day	Lead
Monday	Head Teacher or member of SLT
Tuesday	Member of teaching staff
Wednesday	Member of teaching staff
Thursday	Class Collective Worship
Friday (family celebration assembly)	Head Teacher or member of SLT

### Resources for Collective Worship

An Altar Table is placed as a focal point in the school hall. A wooden cross and a candle, which is lit before the act of worship takes place, then extinguished at the end, is placed on the Altar Table the assembly may continue after the candle is out. A cloth, of the correct colour, will be draped over the table depending on the religious season.

Music will be played as the children and staff both enter and leave the hall.

### Areas for Reflection

Classes may have a reflective area if it is appropriate for the classroom and is used by the children.

The school will have reflective areas: one in the hall and one outside near the school pond area. Children will be allowed to use these both individually and as part of whole-class reflection.

### The contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, at Rauceby Church of England Primary Academy, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

### The Management and Leadership of Collective Worship

The role of the RE Lead will be to plan, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship along with the 'Little Fish' group of children.

Every member of the teaching staff and occasional visitors, including the local clergy, will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

### Planning Acts of Collective Worship

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. Collective Worship will be planned with regard to input from teaching staff, children, governors and the local clergy.

Termly planning will list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues; the planning will also incorporate the staff lead. The weekly planning will ensure that there is continuity and progression, and enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.

### Little Fish - Collective Worship Council

The Collective Worship Council meets when necessary to review, evaluate and aid planning of Collective Worship in order to ensure that it remains exciting, engaging and relevant. Where possible, for major festivals, the Collective Worship council will lead whole school worship in Rauceby St Peter's church or the school under the guidance of the Collective Worship leader. Pupils are represented from all year groups with the exception of Early Years and are chosen by the class teacher.

### Monitoring of the policy:

The effectiveness of the policy and our practice will be evaluated every two years. The Senior Leadership Team in consultation with the whole school community will carry this out.

Acceptance of this policy includes a commitment to implementing it in full.