



**IDE HILL CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL  
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

**POLICY REVIEWED: NOVEMBER 2022  
POLICY DUE FOR REVIEW: NOVEMBER 2026**

Signed by Louisa Hillman, Headteacher	
Signed by Anne Fletcher, Chair of Governors	

*When reviewing and implementing this policy, staff, governors and stakeholders commit to linking policy aims and objectives to our vision:*

***"Do Everything in Love"***

*At Ide Hill Church of England Primary, we seek the 'abundant life' that Jesus promised (John 10:10) - pupils and staff flourish. From the tiny Saplings in Reception to the mighty Oaks of Year 6, children are nurtured through the learning and experiencing of respect, responsibility and love - and the greatest of these is love. Our vision is based upon 1 Corinthians 16:14. Our Key Values are: Respect, Love and Responsibility*

***"Do Everything in Love"*** 1 Corinthians 16:14

At Ide Hill CE Primary School we are committed to valuing and nurturing each child as a unique individual. We strive for all children to develop a love of God, a love of everyone, a love of learning and a love of life through our school vision and associated values.

“Do Everything in Love” 1 Corinthians 14:16

At Ide Hill Church of England Primary, we seek the 'abundant life' that Jesus promised (John 10:10) - pupils and staff flourish. From the tiny Saplings in Reception to the mighty Oaks of Year 6, children are nurtured through the learning and experiencing of respect, responsibility and love - and the greatest of these is love (1 Corinthians 13:13).

Our vision is for the children in our school to grow into responsible, caring and fulfilled adults who actively and positively contribute to the society in which they live through their service to their local and global community. We are committed to raising standards, values and self - esteem for all those involved with our school through cultivating a secure, yet exciting environment that is positive, supportive, stimulating and enriching.

As a Church of England Primary School we see our Collective Worship as a central part of school life. Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of *Respect Love and Responsibility* and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community.

### **What is Collective Worship?**

Legislation requires schools, including Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools, to conduct daily acts of Collective Worship. However, the legislation does not define what is meant by the term 'Collective Worship'.

*“... Worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to 'collective worship' rather than 'corporate worship'.* (DfE Circular 1/94 para 57)

**Corporate** worship assumes a shared set of beliefs and values, i.e. a worshipping congregation meeting on a Sunday, where the worship is confessional and evangelistic (to spread the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness).

**Collective** worship, in recognising the collectivity of all participants, can make no such assumption that all have the same beliefs and values. Collective Worship should be: *“Appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes.”* (DfE Circular 1/94 p.22)

Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Collective worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

In line with the requirements of the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools

(SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that collective worship:

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through invitational experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- b) Enables 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/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- c) Helps 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.
- d) Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.
- e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support our school effectively in developing our provision for collective worship.

### **The Anglican Christian Tradition**

The following are shared by the diocese as examples of Christian elements of collective worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection
- Using Psalms with simple responses – Taizé style

We may also use elements which are more distinctively Anglican, for example:

- Using prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and end of worship
- Using Collects as a focus for worship
- Celebrating Eucharist

### **Implementation**

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent and external visitors in consultation with the collective worship leader. 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. Our school plans systematically and cohesively use Rochester Diocesan Collective Worship Planning, which is adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and this enables continuity.

Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our "Volunteer policy and Guidelines" and our school Safeguarding and Child Protection safeguarding policies, which can be found on the school website.

All visitors to the school are expected to discuss the content of their collective Worship planning with a member of the senior leadership team, in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors will always be supervised whilst leading acts of worship with the children since supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

we meet for a daily act of Worship in the school hall or at St Mary's Church, Ide Hill. Below is an example of rota that we follow. Leading Lights also lead other special events throughout the school year and are invited to attend Eucharistic services

Monday	Whole School Collective Worship St Mary's Church Incumbent	
Tuesday	Key Stage 2 Collective Worship Mrs Hillman	Key Stage 1 Class Collective Worship Class Teachers
Wednesday	Rejoice Together Miss Johnson	Key Stage 2 Collective Worship Mrs Hillman
Thursday	Key Stage 1 Collective Worship Mrs Hillman	Key Stage 2 Class Collective Worship Class Teachers
Friday	Whole School Celebration Worship Leading Lights	

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT and artefacts.

Our worship consists of 4 stages:

- *Gather* – we welcome the community, for example, (*with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle*)
- *Engage* – we share, for example, (*a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message*)
- *Respond* – pupils, for example, (*discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing*)
- *Send* – we share, for example, (*the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour.*)

*We close with liturgy, final prayer, music and the blowing out of our special candle*

### **Expectations of pupils**

Year 6 Leading Lights will regularly plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the collective worship leader to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers.

### **Developing worship**

The school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of collect worship. The collective worship leader attends professional development as appropriate with Rochester Diocese and accesses a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.

### **Self-assessment and Inspection**

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact they have on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and to develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our school community through the newsletter, shared with governors and staff at meetings and shared with our Leading Lights for improvement purposes. This feedback plays an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 (SIAMS) in consultation with the Diocese of Rochester.

### **The legal requirements of collective worship in Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools.**

- Be conducted in accordance with the provision of the Trust Deeds of the school and Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England
- The Directors should ensure that all pupils each day engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship which is in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church
- Arrangements for collective worship, in foundation schools of a religious character, are the responsibility of the Directors, after consulting with the Headteacher (DfE Circular 1/94 para 52 & 53)
- All acts of worship in Church schools must be Christian in character (based on Biblical teachings)
- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdraw) must on 'each school day take part in an act of collective worship'

### **Parental Withdrawal**

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and of none. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.