

Collective Worship Policy

Lambourn CofE Primary School

“Let Your Light Shine”

We take our vision from the candle that we light at the start of each collective worship as it represents the school being a beacon of light within the community. Through great education and guidance, we are lighting the pathway in life and the light of Gods’ love.

Matthew 5:14 - 16

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, **let your light shine** before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Shared with School
Community

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1. Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life of Lambourn Church of England Primary School. Worship offers the children and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian Vision. It reflects our vision and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

Our Christian values underpin our vision; every child is valued and encouraged to achieve their potential. Every member of our school community is encouraged to respect and value each other. We want our children to learn to understand and respect our common humanity, diversity and differences so that they can go on to form the effective, fulfilling relationships that are an essential part of life and learning. The act of Collective Worship at Lambourn Church of England Primary School is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together. We are a Church of England School and the Christian values of tolerance and care for others are central to the ethos of the school. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which underpin the vision of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly. We also follow the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act for Collective Worship. A fuller exploration of beliefs and traditions take place within Religious Education.

Our collective worship provides the pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- worship God;
- experience a variety of styles of worship;
- celebrate:
 - Christian festivals and their relevance to everyday life
 - School values and vision
 - Achievements
 - Global Citizenship;
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer;
- develop a reflective approach to life and reflect on Christian values;
- develop as a community based in Christian values;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship;
- listen to and respond to those from other denominations and faith backgrounds;
- feel safe and affirmed;
- support well being

At times worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth;
- consider moral issues in a Christian context;
- enhance social understanding;
- explore beliefs drawn from the cultural heritage of the community and that of others.

2. Christian Values

At Lambourn CofE Primary School, our '**Christian Values**' are:

Love

Integrity

GRIT

Hope

Trust

These values spell out one of the words that is integral to our shared vision for our community: '**Let Your LIGHT Shine**'

3. The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings and gatherings in the school hall, classrooms and on occasions outside.

We follow the liturgical seasons of the Church year and within this, significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost - other days such as Candlemas are celebrated occasionally.

Whenever worship takes place, it is planned to promote thinking beyond the time given to worship itself and to reflect our school's vision in all that we do.

3.1 Leading worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church community. Children are given opportunities to plan and lead worship throughout the year.

Visitors are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy. Leaders from other faiths and Non-Religious Worldviews help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths and none.

3.2 Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme, and the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils. Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as music, art, dance and drama, alongside traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song.

Monday – Christian Vision & Values Medals – We present children from each year group with our Christian Values Medals, this helps to affirm and promote the vision, values and learning culture of an aspiring and inspirational learning community. It is inclusive, invitational, participatory, reflective and celebratory.

Tuesday - Bible Stories – We share Bible stories that provide opportunities to reflect on our Christian vision, values and what is truly 'of worth' through the vehicle of Christianity as well as other faiths and the wisdom of non-religious world views, philosophies and arts. We follow the liturgical calendar and find opportunities to link with our vision and values. It includes and builds bridges with the pupils' own views and experiences, helping them to reflect on and develop their ideas about what is important in life.

Wednesday - Class-Based – We use 'Space Makers'. The five contemplative practices help our school to embrace some of the ancient wisdom of the Christian tradition and, in doing so, assist children to navigate the world around them. The ancient contemplative traditions of Christianity, like its secular cousin 'mindfulness', have a lot to offer our community and Space Makers brings the five contemplative practices – **Stilling, Noticing, Dwelling, Mending and Dwelling** - into our Collective Worship practice.

Thursday - Singing - Music and singing has always played a huge part in the life of God's people and their worship. Songs or hymns are chosen for their links to our vision and values as well as seasonal, liturgical events, providing children with the opportunity to express praise and thanksgiving to God.

Friday – Celebration – We celebrate the works, challenges and the joys of the week as a school community. We affirm our Christian vision, values and attitudes, share each other's joys and challenges, and celebrate special times for individuals and the community as a whole. Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that 'invites' but does not coerce pupils to participate. The school is sensitive to the fact that not all our children come from families with a religious background. We endeavour to be as inclusive as possible. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection, and our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

4. Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural

Acts of collective worship will aim to:

- nurture and maintain the dignity of the image of God in human beings through working for social justice and encouraging students to consider the needs of others through charitable service;
- nurture reflection, meditation and prayer;
- provide pupils with opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images and words.
- provide a sense of occasion that separates them from the rest of the school day;
- foster an appreciation of the natural created world and our shared responsibilities for maintaining it;

5. Inclusive

Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. Thus, we welcome children and staff of all faiths or no faith.

Through our school's Christian character, our acts of collective worship will:

- recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, lifestyles, faiths and non-religious world views which exist in our school and local community;
- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
- be appropriate for every pupil to attend
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the pupils;
- foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community – in preparation, participation and leadership.

6. Educational

Our acts of collective worship provide wider opportunities to:

- reflect the aims of the school, and foster wide ownership of our vision and core values;
- assist learners to have increased awareness and to reflect upon fundamental issues about life;
- enhance, complement and extend curricular work;
- develop learners' understanding of the Christian faith and Anglican practice through appropriate Biblical and liturgical content;
- identify opportunities for Christian celebration which can be associated with other school events;
- this will include scope to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils;
- promote courageous advocacy.

The following matters are dealt with at an operational level in school:

Personnel responsible for worship:

- Personnel involved in leading worship, including learners;
- Timetabling of acts of worship, including use of local church and groupings of pupils;
- Planning of worship, including its relationship to any core values;
- Monitoring and evaluation procedures;
- Taking account of SIAMS requirements as applicable to the specific situation;
- Opportunities for worship/prayer throughout the day;

Our acts of worship are of a clearly Christian character, recognising the diversity of our community, and providing occasions when pupils meet together in a variety of settings where a positive tone and focus for the day can be established. Pupils are given opportunities to reflect on relevant Christian, moral and spiritual issues, drawn from a variety of sources, thereby enriching their experience of life.

Worship is an essential means of recognising and celebrating school vision, values and achievements in their broadest sense. In worship all participants are recognised for their personal achievement, both within school and in the community. Pupils are awarded, in worship, with a range of rewards, thus placing achievement and Christian Vision in the Christian context of the school.

Collective worship will be inclusive, invitational and inspiring:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and children
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the students
- have a dedicated focus which signifies what is being reflected upon
- provide a dedicated opportunity for students to reflect/respond to the input

Acts of worship often include and ritual aspects these are a means of enabling worship and include:

- Bible study
- stories and readings
- songs, hymns and music
- art, dance and drama
- prayer, meditation
- creative silence
- sacred/secular readings
- artefacts and natural materials
- children's contributions

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community - whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive, inspirational and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory. We would encourage and expect all children to be present for daily collective worship.

Right to withdraw

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship, under the 1988 Education Reform Act for Collective Worship. In the first instance we ask parents, who may wish to exercise this right, to visit school to speak with the Principal.

7. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Principal, at every review, it will be reviewed by staff and the Academy Committee.

8. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Religious Education Policy
- RSE Policy
- PSHE Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Equalities Policy
- Off-site Visits Policy