Shires Multi Academy Trust	With God we grow to live life in all its fullness	
Collective Worship at Feckenham	**Issued**: 21st September 2026	**Issued by**: T Howarth - Headteacher
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Feckenham CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Date Policy Reviewed:	September 2026	
Date Approved By Governing Body:		
Signed Headteacher:		Tanya Howarth
Signed Chair of Governors:		Julie Grieve
Review Date	September 2029	

Wisdom Hope Dignity Community

With God we grow to live life in all its fullness

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.'

John 15.12

Collective Worship

It is our intention through collective worship rooted in a deeply Christian ethos, that our children build the wisdom to understand one another; grow hope to draw on in times of need; treat people with dignity whatever our differences and serve their communities well.

Our school prayer:

Dear Lord,

Thank you for helping us grow to live life in all its fullness.

Please help us to hold dear the values of:

Wisdom

Hope

Dignity and

Community

So we may be wise when it matters

Hopeful in our times of despair

Fair and respectful to others and

Serve our communities well

We ask this in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

Amen

Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of Collective Worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective Worship in a Church of England school must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words, the law on Collective Worship that applies in a community school, "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", is not relevant. Worship in Feckenham CE Primary School should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

School Statement on Collective Worship

In our school worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. At Feckenham CE Primary our vision is *' with God we grow to live life in all its fullness'* We believe that all our pupils, staff and families are loved by God and as such are of intrinsic value. Our

mission is to help everyone in our school flourish personally and academically; fulfilling their potential through the guiding principles of **wisdom, hope, community and dignity.**

Collective Worship is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and Collective Worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

However, in Feckenham CE Primary, the purpose of Collective Worship will be to lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Structure of our collective worship

- Worship table with correct liturgical coloured cloth covering the table
- On the worship table: cross, wooden plaque of Jesus, reflection candle, the Trinity represented by the Bible (Father), cross (Jesus) and a plain candle (spirit)
- Welcome God into our collective worship using the Bible, cross and candle- Adult or child leading with children joining in: 'Father we are here, we are here with you; Jesus we are here, we are here with you; Spirit we are here we are here with you. In the name of the Father, the Son and The Holy Spirit- the Trinity, with us everywhere'.
- Main element linked to value of the half term
- Lighting of the candle with reflections
- School prayer

Through Collective Worship, pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar and those of other faiths. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually. Collective Worship in our school is invitational, inspirational and inclusive.

Aims and Guiding Principles

Collective Worship is pivotal to the life of the school and as such. It encompasses all that we do and supports the outworking of our school vision.

- It is invitational

  Acts of Collective Worship will:
  - nurture and maintain the dignity of the image of God in everyone through working for social justice;
  - encourage pupils to consider the needs of others through charitable service and courageous advocacy;

- nurture reflection, stillness, meditation and prayer;
- provide pupils with (age appropriate) opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images and words;
- provide a sense of occasion that is separate from the rest of the school day;
- foster an appreciation of the natural world and our shared responsibilities for maintaining it;
- identify opportunities for Christian celebration which can be associated with other school events;
- develop clear partnerships between worship in the school and the wider community.

- It is inclusive

  Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith which mirrors the attitude of Jesus Christ in the Gospels. Thus, we welcome children and staff of all faiths to our worship. Through their Christian character our acts of Collective Worship will:
  - recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, lifestyles and faiths which exist in our school and local community;
  - have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
  - be appropriate for every student to attend;
  - use language that is accessible and does not assume a particular faith of the listener;
  - account for the different spiritual journeys that children and adults are on;
  - focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the pupils;
  - give space to consent and dissent, to sit back and consider;
  - foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community – in preparation, participation and leadership;
  - provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.

- It is inspiring

  Our acts of collective worship provide wider opportunities to:
  - promote wide ownership of our Christian vision;
  - assist learners to have increased awareness and to reflect upon fundamental issues about life;
  - allow children and adults to ask big questions about life and beyond;
  - become courageous advocates in the world in which they live;
  - motivate children into action, thinking different and reflecting on their behaviour, action and wider community;
  - develop learners' understanding of the Christian faith and Church (Anglican) practice through appropriate Biblical and liturgical content, including sharing the Eucharist;
  - encounter and explore Jesus's teachings and the trinitarian nature of Christian faith;
  - provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and / or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity;
  - include appropriate references to and elements of other faiths and secular worldviews;
  - include opportunities to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils.

- Therefore, we will ensure that:
  - a range of people are involved in leading worship, including learners;
  - opportunities are offered to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local

church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship;
- the timetabling of acts of worship includes the use of the local church and various groupings of pupils;
- worship is planned in relation to our distinctive Christian vision and associate values;
- worship is regularly evaluated by a range of members of the school community;
- materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to ensure that children have clear understanding of how the teachings of Jesus impact what we do locally, nationally and globally
- opportunities for worship / prayer are offered throughout the day.

Planning, Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation

- Planning
  - Each half term a value is chosen as a focus for collective worship that will run through all elements of school life; plans are produced in Widgit form and used as a visual aid and reminder for both pupils and staff
  - Collective Worship is planned to include the church calendar and the calendars of other faiths.
  - A clear liturgy is followed for each act of Collective Worship.
  - For each act of Collective Worship, a Bible reading, song and prayer are carefully planned to link with the theme of worship, following Bible in a Year.
  - A time of reflection is planned as part of the worship.

- Monitoring and Evaluation
  - The effectiveness of Collective Worship is monitored by the Collective Worship coordinator and the link governor
  - Each class has a 'Collective Worship Reflection Book' which is used to collect pupil responses to the value promoted in collective worship.
  - At the end of each term we evaluate the successes of Collective Worship with the pupils to then make improvements for the next term.

Roles and Responsibilities

- The Governing Body should:
  - provide a statement within the school prospectus which makes clear that the aims of Collective Worship within the school are based on its Christian foundation and includes parents' legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship;
  - ensure that the school fulfills its legal responsibility for Collective Worship;
  - in conjunction with the Headteacher, monitor the effectiveness of Collective Worship within the school and make recommendations for its development in accordance with the SIAMS Schedule.

- Headteacher / Collective Worship Lead should:
  - co-ordinate timetabling in conjunction with the school and church community;
  - ensure that the school prospectus, welcome / induction pack and website have clear statements about the school's ethos for Collective Worship, (including the right of withdrawal);
  - ensure that there is a balance of regular and on-off visitors during the year, and being a point of contact for those visitors so that they understand their contribution to the worship life of the school;
  - organise the evaluation of Collective Worship;
  - be a part of the SIAMS inspection process;

- support other members of staff;
- know where to go for good resources to support worship;
- lead staff meetings that have a focus on Collective Worship;
- be responsible for leading school worship initiatives

- Pupil Worship Team should:
  - plan and lead Collective Worship;
  - suggest new ideas for Collective Worship;
  - contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship in the school;
  - promoting Collective Worship within the school.

- Staff should:
  - support the crucial role that Collective Worship plays within the school;
  - plan and lead Collective Worship when required;
  - provide opportunities for pupils to reflect on worship at other times during the week.

Staff Development and Training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. This support is provided by Diocese of Worcester Education Team. Training needs for staff may be identified through regular subject leader audits as well as performance management cycles.

The Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from Collective Worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasion, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the Headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- the elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part;
- the practical implications of withdrawal;
- whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much.

Where parents have withdrawn their children from Collective Worship and request religious worship according to their faith or denomination, the governors and Headteacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school;
- that the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts.

If the parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply (*this means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily Collective Worship).*

Review

This policy will be subject to the normal cycle of policy review and will be reviewed and ratified by the Governing Body every 3 years. Furthermore, there may be occasions where this policy is reviewed outside the normal review cycle, including but not limited to:

- a change in the SIAMS Schedule for Inspections;
- a change in legal position framework for Collective Worship.