



Rockwell Green Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Status:	NON-STATUTORY
Responsible person:	HEADTEACHER
Responsible Governor:	CHAIR OF GOVERNORS
Approved by the Governing Body:	May 2025
Review Period:	Annually
Review Date:	May 2026

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

This policy should be taken and used as part of Rockwell Green Church of England Primary School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our vision, instrument of government aims and values as a Church of England school.

At Rockwell Green C of E VC Primary School we believe that communication is a basic human right and underpins a child's learning. We use a wide range of communication tools including: speech, facial expressions, objects of reference, photographs and symbols to ensure that all children are given an inclusive and consistent approach to their learning.

Rockwell Green Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. In this respect our Act of Worship complies with the requirements of the Trust Deed to worship in accordance with the principle of the Church of England. The policy is consistent with the main aims of the school as expressed in the Prospectus and Mission Statement and has been adopted by the Governing Body, in consultation with the Head teacher and teaching staff.

Mission Statement

As a Church of England School, we aim to work with parents, pupils, staff, governors and the church to provide a safe environment in which each child is valued as an individual made in the image of God, and in which the child can find security, acceptance, reassurance and an opportunity to develop their potential. We aim to create a caring and happy community in which Christian values are upheld.

"Sharing life in all its fullness"
John 10:10

See Appendix A for a copy of the Church of England Schools Ethos Statement.

In the preparation of this policy due consideration was given to the following:

- Religious Education and Collective Worship Circular 1/94.
- Framework for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools (SIAMs).

1. Rationale

Collective Worship fulfils an important function in the day. It provides opportunity for spiritual and moral development through praise to God and reflecting on his presence in our lives.

2. Aims

Collective Worship in our school is based on developing the values and qualities we consider important:

- To affirm the presence of God through celebration and reflection.
- To provide a moment of calm amongst the hustle and bustle of the day. Where time can be given to the consideration of tolerance, developing relationships and co-operation.

3. Objectives

- To provide opportunities to develop our own responses to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of life.
- To learn about the Christian traditions upon which our society is based and to contribute to each pupil's Religious Education.
- To encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promote Christian values through the experience it offers to all pupils.
- To promote and encourage an understanding of the British Values.
- To provide opportunities for celebration and praise.
- To acknowledge the value of time given for quiet reflection.
- To show how God has worked through the lives of ordinary people in the past and is relevant in our lives today.
- To foster a sense of group identity, whether class, key stage group or whole school.
- To ensure that our Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of our pupils.
- To use the vehicle of Collective Worship to promote and reinforce positive attitudes in our school, in behaviour and in appreciation of the environment.

4. Principles of the Act of Collective Worship

- Collective Worship will take place each day. This will involve either class or whole school groupings.
- Collective Worship will encourage participation and response whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the Worship offered.
- The worship planned will be relevant, meaningful and inclusive of all who attend and will allow for a variety of responses from awareness to respect and reverence.
- The majority of Acts of Collective Worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- It will appeal to the imaginative and the reflective side of learning as well as the acquisition of knowledge.

5. Planning of the Programme

- The programme will be planned in advance by the Headteacher.
- Worship will be planned to take account of the school's six values with one being a focus each half-term, major festivals of the Church year and when appropriate with the curriculum plan of the school year.
- A sense of occasion will be created with appropriate thought given to the setting available. Lighting a candle and the use of a call and response of: 'The Lord Is Here', 'His Presence is with us' is used to create 'stilling' point when and where considered appropriate. A worship table covered with a cloth, candle and wooden cross are used daily. Children are expected to enter and leave quietly and smartly so that there is time for personal reflection.

- d. The Act of Collective Worship will last approximately 15 minutes.
- e. A variety of approaches will be used in order to evoke feelings of awe, wonder, mystery, peace, praise and thanksgiving.
- f. Elements used in the worship may include listening to and making music, singing, listening to stories from the Bible or everyday events, drama, use of artefacts and other audiovisual material.
- g. The Worship will have clear focus and will often involve pupil participation.
- h. Foundation Stage children will not attend whole school worship until it is appropriate for their development.
- i. Opportunity will be provided for prayer or a quiet time for reflection.
- j. Parents will be invited to attend celebration assemblies, our Harvest, Easter and Christmas Service at Church.
- k. Our aim is to provide equal opportunities for all children and adults at Rockwell Green School. Children will experience learning about other cultures and will be involved in projects which teach them to value all people. Our Acts of Collective Worship will reflect the Christian view that every person is valuable.
- l. Opportunities for prayer are provided at other times of the day, e.g. before lunch and at the end of the school day.

6. Parental Right of Withdrawal

The Education reform Act 1988 – DFE Circular 1/94 paragraphs 68 and 69, make provision for pupils who wish to withdraw from Collective Worship. It is hoped however, that the worship in our school is of a kind that includes everyone.

7. Responsibilities

- The governor responsible for Collective Worship in our school is Sam Rylatt.
- The Collective Worship co-ordinator/headteacher is responsible for updating the Collective Worship Policy.

8. Role of Collective Worship Co-ordinator

- a) The Headteacher has arranged the weekly structure for worship
- b) Whole staff training is in line with the school development plan.
- c) To be involved in the organisation of worship linked to the major festivals of the Church year. This is supported by key celebrations at school and church and also marked by the use of cloths for the table that are in the liturgical colours marking key events in the Christian calendar.
- d) To demonstrate our commitment to the wider community by organising assemblies linked with local organisations/charities, e.g. BESOM. Our Harvest donations for the last number of years have been donated to BESOM.

e) Resources are held in the Religious Education resources area. Some resource boxes are kept by class teachers.

9. Visiting Leaders

Guidelines for visitors leading Collective Worship are available from the school. See Appendix C.

Three regular and popular visitors taking whole school Collective Worship are: Bob House, Pastor at Rockwell Green Christian Centre, Peter Roberts from the Wellington Methodist Church and Reverend Andy from All Saints' Church.

10. Conclusion

Collective Worship is a time when staff and pupils may come together to express praise and thanksgiving to God, to celebrate achievements and to develop awareness and concern for the need of others, so that we may all grow in the love and knowledge of Christ.

APPENDIX A

Mission or vision statements

These are statements written to express the school's overall purpose and aims. Sometimes they are summarised into a brief statement or slogan or strap line, eg 'A Christian community committed to excellence'.

Ethos Statement

Ethos statements are written to express 'the way we do things here', and the reasons why we do them this way. All Church schools have an ethos statement based on their founding Trust Deed. This is in the school Instrument of Government and needs to be published for parents to read. The ethos statement will influence the way everything in the school is done, throughout the curriculum and whole life of the school.

One definition of school ethos is:

'The tone, character and quality of a school, specifically its spiritual, moral and aesthetic mood and the quality of the relationships there'.

Ofsted seem to prefer ethos as:

'Ethos is the climate for learning: attitudes to work, relationships and the commitment to high standards'.

The Church of England Schools Ethos Statement is....

'Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England/Church in Wales and in partnership with the Churches at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.'

School Aims

These are a fuller expression of the mission/vision and the ethos statements written in more detail. Often each will cover a different aspect of school life, e.g. for ethos and worship – 'to offer every member of the school community an experience of Christian life and worship'.

APPENDIX B

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP Plan

	First half of Term	Second half of Term
Autumn	Respect	Friendship
Spring	Compassion	Service
Summer	Justice	Trust

APPENDIX C



Guidelines for Visitors leading Collective Worship at Rockwell Green C.E.V.C Primary School

Attached is a copy of our Collective Worship Policy which lays out how we worship here at Rockwell Green Primary School.

The following is designed to help you present your Act of Collective Worship:

As a Church school we aim to communicate to children and adults alike through the Christian ethos, which is both caring and informative. The nature of our style of worship will at times be joyful in our praise of God and at others provide moments for quiet thought, reflection and/or prayer.

Acts of Collective Worship are usually short, lasting between five and fifteen minutes. Children understand things better if they come in 'small parcels'. It is preferable to choose one small area and deal with it well rather than ranging over a large subject.

It is important that any visual aids and writing is large enough to see from the back. Small pictures, tiny writing and small objects will cause the children to start kneeling up to see, and they will soon lose interest in what they cannot see.

Remember that sight-reading is an adult skill. If you are going to teach the children a song or have something for them to read, do help them. Read things with children and always print in lower case letters.

It is hoped that through encouragement children will grow in their response to worship. However, it should be realised that all children are somewhere between being 'passive observers' and 'active participators'.

The school has a framework of themes for assemblies throughout the year which will be shared with you.

We welcome the expertise, knowledge and experiences that visitors from Charitable Organisations have contributed to the religious education of classes within our school.