

Upham CE (A) Primary School

Policy for Collective Worship



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Reviewed by V.Gardner

Upham CE (Aided) Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



Collective Worship will be used to develop children's Spiritual, Moral, Cultural and Social learning and will be rooted in the Christian values of love and care which are the foundation of our vision. Children are encouraged to 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it. Love your neighbour as yourself'. (Matthew 22: 37-39).

Aims and Purpose

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children and the whole school community to worship God, and invite them into experiencing the spiritual journey with God;
- to stimulate and challenge children to develop spiritually and respond with integrity whatever their personal commitment.
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship and share worship together.

Collective Worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion, the purpose of which is to show reverence to God as Creator and Saviour, the power of His Holy Spirit and though His Word in the Bible. Collective Worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in worship. We expect everyone to take an active part in the worship.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that Collective Worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base our Collective Worship on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our Collective Worship in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school and matched to the age, aptitude and family background of the children.

Displays and areas around the school are used to communicate aspects of RE and worship. We aim to embed the values of the Christian faith throughout the school and encourage worship to be something which is done throughout our lives, not just at times when we gather together. We encourage children to also worship and offer personal prayers at any time and in any place so therefore do not have specific places designated for this.

It is the school policy not to incorporate the celebration of Holy Communion into Collective Worship but to teach the children about its symbolism, importance and ritual through relevant opportunities in Collective Worship (e.g., Maundy Thursday) and in RE and therefore discover its spiritual importance.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship which is most frequently a whole school Collective Worship, though on occasion due to events and other arrangements, may be a class worship.

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and reverential way. We tell children that these collective times are periods of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to respond thoughtfully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer, songs and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

Collective Worship is conducted by the headteacher and other members of staff, and are also led by local clergy or, on occasion, other representatives of Christian/ church groups.

Our Collective Worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective Worship also provides an opportunity to encourage and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. Upham School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children during Collective Worship.

Parents are invited to attend Collective Worship and all church services. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and families working together in support of the children's achievements. This is often highlighted via the weekly newsletter during particular times of the year. Governors' attendance is always welcome. The newsletter is also used as a key way of sharing aspects of RE, worship and prayer with parents to encourage discussion at home and to develop involvement.

'Services' for Families Held at Blessed Mary Church, Upham

At key celebration times during the year; Harvest, Christmas and Easter, a collective worship will take place at the Blessed Mary Church, Upham. Families are invited to attend, though are not required to do so. The event is a shared act of worship for everyone and will therefore contain elements such as: traditional/ formal and newer liturgy, songs of worship (balance of classical and modern hymns and songs), sharing of prayers including The Lord's Prayer (traditional and modern versions), sharing of bible teachings with application to wider life and wherever possible and a blessing from an available member of clergy. There will also be a broad, overall message for the worship for everyone to take away with them which would link from collective worships previously in school, for example how Jesus' birth at Christmas fulfilled God's promise, as prophesied in the bible.

The event is also reflective of the school's ethos and is therefore also a valuable opportunity for children to share learning, especially an opportunity for musicians to perform to an audience. This means that some aspects of the service may feel more general in nature, but will contribute to the overall theme of the worship. Children will be integral in sharing aspects of the worship with the oldest children from Class 4 taking lead roles, the headteacher taking the overall lead.

The annual leaver's service is collaboratively planned and delivered entirely by year 6. It is a culmination of children's spiritual development at the school, giving them the opportunity to reflect on their spiritual development and futures.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the worship. Parents do not have

to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from Collective Worship.

Monitoring and review

Monitoring the policy and practice of Collective Worship is the role of a named school governor, who is also responsible for religious education. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors. A range of governors also monitor Collective Worship through formal half-termly observations. Across the year a balance will be planned to observe headteacher, clergy and teacher led Collective Worship by a range of Governors in different roles (i.e., incumbent, foundation, parent-elected and local authority).

Named Governor: Rev James Hunt

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years.

Methodology for Planning Christian Worship

In accordance with the aims of our trust deeds, through worship we aim to develop knowledge, awareness and understanding of Holy Scripture and the liturgy and teaching of the established church. The structure for the year plan will be drawn initially from the seasons and festivals from the Anglican Church year. Around this structure a balance of teachings from Holy Scripture, creeds and prayers as well as other aspects such as missionary or Christian Leaders will be added. Elements will be drawn from:

Overview of The Christian Calendar	
	<u>Structure of the Year</u>
Autumn Term	Harvest
	All Saints Day
	Remembrance
	Advent
	Christmas
Spring Term	Epiphany
	Lent (Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday)
	Mothering Sunday
	Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Day)
Summer Term	Ascension
	Pentecost (Whit Sunday)
	Trinity Sunday

<u>Christian Examples, past</u>	
23 April	St George's Day

Other Aspects	
1 wk/ term	Great Christian Examples/ leaders
1 wk/ term	Charitable work/ missionary (deed and word)
1 wk/ year	World/ UK events
5wks across yr	Children's chosen themes 1 week per class (Autumn I, II, Spring I, II) & 1 again for year 6 in Summer II
Sept & Jan	New Beginning/ starting afresh

Areas of Biblical Teaching	
	<i>(Areas of Bible which could be used)</i>
Love (Matthew 22)	Greatest Commandment Mt22 Good Samaritan 1 Corinthians 13 John 15 Agape, Phileo, Storge, Eros Lazarus Jonathon & David (Philia) Joseph, Cain & Able (lack of Philia) Being built into a spiritual family 1 James 2
Care (kindness)	Exodus – God Saves/Rescues Mt6 Luke 6 Do not worry
Faith / Trust	Abraham Genesis Noah Daniel Ruth –Friendship and Faithfulness James 2 Doubting Thomas John14:6
Grace	Moses (chosen by God late in life) Leaders/God uses the weak (Exodus)
Sacrifice	Jesus Samson Doing God's will – Jonah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel Esther Exodus - Passover
Fruits of the spirit	Galatians
Hope	David & Goliath
Joy	Lord of The Sabbath Mt 12 Mk 2 Lk6
Parables	The Lost Sheep Mt18 Lk15 Rich Young Man Mt19 Mk10 Lk18 Talents Mt25 Lk19 Sower Mk4 Mt13 Lk8 Mustard Seed Mk4 Mt13 Lk13 Rich Fool Lk12 Mt10 Lost Son Lk15
10 Commandments	Exodus
Beatitudes	Matthew 5:3-12 Luke6:20-22
Trinity	John 10:29-30
Creation (Genesis)	Creation – Creation/Stewardship Adam and Eve – The Fall/Sin Cain and Abel – Honour God/Giving

The 'Areas of bible teaching' referred to above will form a themed week (or longer) of Collective Worship. The following table summarises key bible teachings from The New and Old Testaments. Some of these teachings may be used within thematic areas, the Calendar areas, the 'Other areas' or may sit on their own or within new themes.

Old Testament Teaching		New Testament Teaching	
Book	Character/ stories/ themes	Book	Character/ stories/ themes
Genesis	Creation – Creation/Stewardship	Acts (Various)	Paul – Missionary Journeys
Genesis	Adam and Eve – The Fall/Sin	Romans (Key Verses)	The Gospel – Key Verses/Truths
Genesis	Cain and Abel – Honour God/Giving	1 Cor 12	Family - many parts but one body
Genesis	Noah – Sin/Righteousness/Trust/Faith	1 Cor 13	Love – Faith Hope and Love
Genesis	Abraham – Trust/Faith	Galatians 5	Fruit of the Spirit – Love Peace etc
Genesis	Isaac, Jacob, Esau – Favourites....	Ephesians 6	Armour of God – Helmet, Shield etc
Genesis	Joseph – God works for good	Philippians 2	Jesus – example/attitude....humble
Exodus	Moses – Leaders/God uses the weak	Colossians 3	Holy Living
Exodus	Plagues – God Warns/Judges	James 2	Faith and Action
Exodus	Passover – Sacrifice	1 Peter 2	Being built into a spiritual family
Exodus	Exodus – God Saves/Rescues	Revelation 21	Heaven
Exodus	Israel Wanderings - Disobedience	The Gospels	Key Bible Stories
Exodus	10 Commandments – God's Rules	Mt 22 Mk 12	Love – Greatest Commandment
Joshua	Joshua – War/Peace	Lk 10 Mt 22 Mk 12	Love – Good Samaritan
Judges	Gideon, Samson, Deborah - Various	John 15	Love – Agape, Phileo, Storge, Eros
Ruth	Ruth –Friendship and Faithfulness	Mt 6 Luke 12	Care/Kindness ..Do not worry
1 Samuel	Samuel – Listening/God Calls	Mt 5 Luke 6	The Beatitudes
1 Samuel	David and Goliath – Courage	Mt 7 Luke 6	The wise and foolish builders
1 Samuel	Saul, Jonathan, David - Friendship	Mt12 Mk2 Lk6	Lord of the Sabbath
2 Samuel	David – A man after God's Heart	Mt14 Mk6 Lk9 Jn6	Feeding of the 5000
1 Kings	Solomon – Wisdom and Worldliness	Mt 18 Lk 15	The Parables of the Lost Sheep
1 Kings	Elijah and Elisha – Prophets Warning	Mt 19 Mk10 Lk18	The Rich Young Man
Nehemiah	Nehemiah - Leadership	Mt 25 Lk19	The Parable of the Talents
Esther	Esther – 'for such a time as this'	Mk1 Mt4 Lk5 Jn1	The Calling of the first disciples
Job	Job - suffering	Mk2 Lk 5	The Healing of the Paralytic
Proverbs	Solomon - Wisdom	Mk4 Mt13 Lk8	The Parable of the Sower
Isaiah	Isaiah – Prophecy and Jesus	Mk4 Mt13 Lk13	The Parable of the Mustard Seed
Daniel	Daniel – Trust, Courage, Idolatry	Lk6 Mt 5	Love for Enemies
Jonah	Jonah – Obedience, Speaking out	Lk11 Mt6	Jesus teaching on Prayer The LP
		Lk12 Mt10	The parable of the Rich fool
		Lk15	The parable of the lost son
		John 2	Jesus changes water into wine
		John 3	Jesus and Nicodemus
		John 6	Jesus walks on water
		John 11	The death of Lazarus
		John 14	Doubting Thomas John 14v6
		John	Miracles
		John	The I AM sayings
		John 10:29-30	Jesus explaining The Trinity of The Father, Son and Holy Spirit