


EYNESBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Statement of Practice



Policy date	SPRING 2023
Review date	Annually



Eynesbury Church of England Primary School


Our school motto

'Love to learn, learn to love'

Our key values

Love Respect Courage Forgiveness Honesty

The story of the Good Samaritan



'We do not give up on ourselves or each other. We show **courage** in our everyday lives and in our learning. We show **generosity** of spirit and **tenderness** towards the people in our school community and those further afield. We **love** each other and care for everyone's needs, **respecting** people's specialness. As Jesus taught, we strive to be **truthful** and **forgiving** in everything we do.'

'Love your neighbour as yourself'
Matthew 22:39

Our school context

Families who send their children to Eynesbury Church of England Primary School are from a wide range of faith backgrounds and ethnicities. Some children are from practising Christian families who may attend Eynesbury church, other Anglican churches or Christian denominations. There are children attending Eynesbury who have other faiths and children who have a non-religious background.

We recognise that in inviting our children to worship we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times. We seek to invite pupils, staff and families to have the opportunity, without compulsion, to grow spiritually through experiences of stillness, reflection, worship and prayer.

Aims of Collective Worship

The school aims to be both educational and inclusive in its approach to collective worship, taking into account both the backgrounds and the developmental stages of the children. At the same time, it aims to teach the children about a Christian understanding of God. Collective worship also gives pupils the opportunity to:

- explore relationships with family and friends, to explore our school vision and values to foster a feeling of community and belonging in the school
- recognise and celebrate that God created human beings as different, diverse and from many countries and cultures, to develop kindness, compassion and empathy
- explore the children's awareness of the big questions of life related to Christian teaching and to help children discover their place in the world
- explore and celebrate special occasions in the Church calendar, the school community and in our wider world

Our collective worship will be:

- Well organised, planned, delivered and resourced
- Special and different from other classroom activities
- Inclusive and unifying, recognising the personal integrity of all members of the school community
- Offer the possibility to those that choose to worship are able to do so
- Part of our school plans for development and improvement

Legal requirements

All pupils at Eynesbury Church of England Primary School are entitled to a daily act of collective worship.

Collective worship is carried out in accordance with our school's vision and values which are based in Christian teaching, therefore the worship is wholly Christian in nature.

The worship may take place at any part of the day and in any regular group such as whole school, key stage or class gatherings.

Responsibility for the collective worship of the school lies with the governors, in consultation with the Head Teacher, Senior Management Team and Collective Worship Leader.

It should be noted that collective worship is different from an assembly, which is a gathering of the school, or part of it, for any purpose.

Weekly Provision

The school aims to provide a suitable atmosphere for collective worship, so as to make it distinctive from the rest of the children's daily schedule. This is achieved through the use of music and a regular visual focus in whole school collective worship, such as a candle, and an expectation that this is a time for thoughtfulness and reflection.

Collective worship leaders are encouraged to think about using visual aids, music, prayers, poetry, drama, stories and silence, remembering the developmental stages of the children present.

Children are given the opportunity to respond actively in worship through music, singing, praying and participating in drama.

As of September 2023, all children will be given the opportunity to be a part of their class-led Collective Worship, to which families are invited. The dates for this will be shared with the whole school community.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole school	Whole school	Whole school	Whole school	Whole school
Theme	Hymn Practice	Something to Think About	Theme	Celebration Worship, rewards
Collective Worship Leader	Music Specialist	Assistant Headteachers	Deputy Headteacher and local Clergy	Headteacher

Format for worship

We use a four-part model for worship recommended by the Diocese of Ely. We use a variety of resources to support this.

- Gathering- we gather together and greet each other
- Engaging- we engage with the big things and the little things in life
- Responding- we respond together as individuals
- Sending- we are sent out to love and serve one another and to make a difference in the world

Planning

The planning of Collective Worship is based on the seasons of the Church's year and the school's Christian vision and values.

Termly overviews are created by the Collective Worship Leader in consultation with the Senior Leadership team, Local Clergy and Collective Worship team made up of children from across the school, to reflect the

current areas for exploration or development as a whole school. The termly overview can be based on plans from the Diocese of Ely, such as the Bishop's Lent Challenge. Other resources are also used.

The termly overview is available in the HT office and the staffroom and forms part of the monitoring record.

Rewards in the Celebration worship on Friday will highlight those pupils who are displaying our Christian vision and values.

Monitoring

Monitoring of all forms of Collective Worship is undertaken by the Head Teacher, Governors, Collective worship Leader and pupils. The evaluation is used to inform future planning about the selection of material; the approaches to use and the involvement of pupils.

Visitors

We regularly welcome visitors to lead worship at Eynesbury Church of England Primary School and value the fresh approach they can bring. We ask that all visitors adhere to our values. Worship at our school is led by clergy from Eynesbury Church on a regular basis and whole school worship takes place in the church building on occasions to which families are invited. The children come to know these visitors over time.

Procedure for withdrawing children

Parents may withdraw a child from collective worship on religious grounds, and are advised of this right through the school prospectus and online. Parents are asked to come and discuss this decision with the Headteacher and then make a formal written request. Pupils cannot be withdrawn from collective worship on educational grounds. If, for example, swimming clashes with a scheduled time of collective worship for the school, it is the class teacher's responsibility to organise a separate time of collective worship later in the day.