



Easington
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

Collective Worship Policy

Easington Church of England Primary Academy is a Voluntary Aided, Church of England Primary School offering a comprehensive Christian primary education to families in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

The School is a caring community built on Christian values and beliefs, which permeate all aspects of School life. The curriculum, including the National Curriculum, is presented within a Christian worldview.

Such a world view gives perspective and meaning to all learning at Easington. The school follows the York Diocesan Primary RE Syllabus 2022 alongside the Understanding Christianity project which aims to see pupils leave school with a coherent understanding of Christian belief and practice. Pupils from 3-11 explore the significant theological concepts within Christianity as part of developing their wider religious, theological and cultural literacy.

We seek to foster the God given talents and gifts amongst children, staff and governors for the service of each other, the school, the wider community and the Glory of God. Our aim is that all children reach their full potential.

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10

This is the context in which this policy is written. This policy was written in November 2023 and will be reviewed in the Summer Term 2025 or sooner if necessary.

This policy intends to outline the policy and procedure for Collective Worship at Easington’s Church of England Primary Academy. It will follow the Church of England’s new vision for education ‘Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good’; integral to this vision are the four elements; Wisdom, Hope, Community and Dignity.

In our Church school, our vision is for everyone to know they are ‘wonderfully made by God, and loved by Him just as they are’. This policy intends to outline how our whole school community lives this out in relation to Collective Worship.

Our Christian Values are firmly rooted in this policy. They were chosen by children and staff after a period of research, discussion and reflection.

Christian Value		How is this value lived out in our Collective Worship policy?
Compassion		<p><i>The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion (Psalm 116:5)</i></p> <p>Through our Collective Worship, staff support pupils to be compassionate and empathetic towards others. The themes which are raised in Collective Worship develop their social and emotional literacy, by considering what life is like for others. Pupils are encouraged to reflect on how they can be compassionate in their daily lives.</p>
Respect		<p><i>Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets (Matthew 7:12)</i></p> <p>We rely on feedback from children and families in relation to Collective Worship. We value this feedback and act on it. Respect for one another and open dialogue with families is well-established, so that where families and children feel they need to withdraw from certain aspects of Collective Worship, this is discussed with the Headteacher and managed seamlessly.</p>
Thankfulness		<p><i>Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever (Psalm 106:1)</i></p> <p>We ensure that Collective Worship is invitational and everyone finds the time and space, supporting them to reflect, be still, and be inspired. Pupils are offered regular opportunities to show thankfulness to those in our local community and beyond.</p>
Friendship		<p><i>Encourage one another and build each other up (1 Thessalonians 5.11)</i></p> <p>We understand Collective Worship is a time for us all to share the same experience. It helps us understand how relationships can work and how they make us feel. Staff use the themes raised in Collective Worship to support children with their emotional literacy, restorative work and resilience with regards to friendships.</p>

Rationale

This Collective Worship policy reflects and reinforces the school's aims, ethos and values and demonstrates the partnership between the conduct and content of school worship and the ethos of the whole school.

At Easington Church of England Primary Academy we consider Collective Worship to be a significant activity that both reflects and explores the schools distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of all learners. It is a time to come together, as a community, to share common values and principles and to develop a sense of awe and wonder concerning our place within the world.

The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Therefore, Collective Worship at Easington Church of England Primary Academy is planned to:

- to be invitational, inspirational and inclusive;
- regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and which will explore and relate to the school's core Christian values;
- have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity;
- have a strong focus on the person of Jesus Christ and his position central to the Christian faith;
- help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey.
- be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.

Aims

Collective Worship at Easington Church of England Primary Academy aims to:

- enable the school community to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition;
- explore the school's Christian vision and values and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God;
- share teachings of the Christian faith for the school community to make an informed choice and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ;
- encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework
- raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith;
- encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally;
- seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence;
- develop a sense of community within the school, the locality, (e.g. local church) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions;
- provide an opportunity to bring personal needs and those of others before God in prayer;
- help children discover their place in the world;
- develop inner awareness, valuing self and the view and opinions of others;
- engage all learners, who should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school.

Statement of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus. In such circumstances, parents are encouraged to discuss their reasons for withdrawal with the Headteacher, although they are not required to do so.

Inclusion

Easington Church of England Primary Academy is a school for everyone, regardless of beliefs. Therefore, during Collective Worship, we are always sensitive to the very wide range of backgrounds and beliefs represented by our school community. This includes:

- those who have, or who come from families with, Christian commitment and belief
- parents who have chosen a church school (or who support its ethos) because they wish their children to experience something of the Christian faith
- members of other faith communities
- those who may not share in any particular religious belief

Invitational:

Parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There should be no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship at Easington provides the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. The metaphor of 'warm fires and open doors' captures this idea. The warmth of the fire derives from the clarity and authenticity of the Christian message at its heart. There is no value to an encounter with a watered down, lowest common denominator version of faith. Importantly the door is open, all are welcome to come in and sit as near or as far away from the fire as they feel comfortable. Pupils and adults are always invited to pray if they wish to do so and children are invited to pray in their own way. Prayer is always accompanied by the option to reflect.

Inspiring:

Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter in our school to be inspirational. Worship is viewed as being formational and transformational: it enables pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It motivates pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of our inspirational Collective Worship, children are inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

Planning and Organisation

Themes for Collective Worship are planned by the co-ordinator, the pupil Collective Worship planning team and foundation governors, using the Roots and Fruits framework as a basis. The co-ordinator carefully plans pupil Collective Worship to ensure pupils engage with a range of Christian values, including the school core values. Additionally, the needs of the school and pupils are also taken into consideration when planning Collective Worship. The Christian calendar, world events and areas of interest shown by pupils, in their own faith, are also taken into account in Collective Worship planning.

Whole school Collective Worship is held on 4 days of the week, with smaller worship groups on the remaining day.

	School Involvement	Theme	Leader
Monday	Whole School	Picturing Christianity	KS1 Class Teacher
Tuesday	Whole School	Intro to focus for the week	Head or Deputy
Wednesday	Whole School	Singing	Class Teachers
Thursday	Worship Groups	Personalised Worship	Class Teachers / ATs
Friday	Whole School	Celebration	Class Teachers

Pupils are involved in the planning and leading of Collective Worship in the following ways:

- Each class may have responsibility for preparing and delivering part of a longer Collective Worship which may be held at Church to celebrate a specific time of year (e.g. Christmas, Easter, Harvest).
- Year 6 prepare and help deliver the act of worship in church that is their Leavers' Service;
- Individual pupils are regularly invited to lead prayers, which pupils of all ages are keen to do;
- Pupils are invited to be volunteers on an 'ad hoc' basis to act out or role play situations/stories

Implementation and Delivery

We mark out this special time by lighting three candles (to represent the Trinity), entering and exiting calmly and quietly, having time for stillness and reflection, saying words of welcome and the responses together, singing and listening to music.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan their act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a four-stage structure of planning:

- Gathering: we welcome the community with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle.
- Engaging: we share a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message
- Responding: pupils discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing
- Sending: we share the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will impact upon their day, learning and/or behaviour. We close worship with final prayer, music and blowing out the candles

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities, including: music, silence, symbolism, drama, ICT etc.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Evaluation strategies currently used by staff and governors for assessing the outcomes of Collective Worship are:

- Observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest shown during the sessions.
- Observations are conducted by staff and governors.
- Feedback from pupils and parents by means of annual questionnaires.
- Feedback from pupils through regular Collective Worship planning team meetings.
- Termly Collective Worship meetings with the Foundation Governors.
- Observation of the children's general behaviour in and around school.

The monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship forms part of the school's programme of monitoring. This is done through:

- formal observations of Collective Worship led by a range of leaders;
- pupil discussion groups with the Headteacher or Governor;
- informal observations of how pupils are putting the messages from Collective Worship into practice;
- pupils' responses and ideas during Collective Worship
- written evidence in response to prompts in the whole school reflection corner which links with the Collective Worship theme.
- written and photographic evidence from prayer spaces.

The school's foundation governors have a role monitoring Collective Worship.

Visitors

Local clergy regularly lead Collective Worship in school.

Visitors are supported to understand the aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general, the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

