



Eccleston C.E. Aided Primary School

"Let your light shine" - Matthew 5:16

Collective Worship Policy

Curriculum Committee	
Date of Policy	Autumn 2024
Reviewed	Autumn 2027
Signed Headteacher:	Chair of governors:

Our Vision Statement

At Eccleston C of E Primary School, we believe that every child is known and loved by God and is made in the image of God. We are united in our vision of every child fulfilling their God-given potential as they are nurtured to reflect the example Jesus set in all they do.

We aim to achieve this through instilling a life-long love of learning and development that is rooted in Christian Values. We strive for excellence in all we do enabling all members of our school to flourish.

“Let your light shine”-Matthew 5.16 **“Let your light shine”-Matthew 5.16**

Introduction

This policy has been prepared by the Governing Board and Headteacher with assistance from the Incumbent. Diocesan guidelines for collective worship have been referred to.

The right of withdrawal.

The parents’ legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship is clearly laid out in the school prospectus. If there are any children whose parents exercise their right to withdraw them from worship, alternative activities will be provided in consultation with the children’s parents. This does not mean that the children will be in any way exempt from the Christian ethos of the school which underpins the whole of school life. Parents are made fully aware of this when they enrol their children.

Aims and Objectives

Worship is a time where we come together to celebrate our achievements, learn about the person, love and work of Jesus, think about how we might live and love like Jesus in our daily life, and have the opportunity to give thanks to God and ask for his help in songs and prayer. The worship at our school is based on promoting the Christian Values which permeate the ethos of the school. Worship is, therefore, an essential part of the school day and the contributions from staff, pupils, clergy and other visitors are highly valued.

Christian Value	Half Term Focus
Thankfulness	Autumn 1
Love	Autumn 2
Respect	Spring 1
Forgiveness	Spring 2
Perseverance	Summer 1
Kindness	Summer 2

At Eccleston C.E. Primary School, we always seek to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school and its care for all who work here. Children are helped to understand the meaning of Christian worship and we hope that believers will be able to share in it and that others of no faith will reach the 'threshold of worship'.

Our central aims of collective worship are to:

- enable children and staff to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition.
- lead the school community to the 'threshold of worship' in order for them to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'no faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- use celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth.
- provide opportunities for the whole school community to address God directly through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit through acknowledging his presence, reflecting upon his character and giving Him praise and honour.
- use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate and lead worship.
- encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework by learning more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ through worship.
- raise awareness through reflection on the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- reaffirm, strengthen and practise key Christian values. (e.g. love, peace, compassion, forgiveness, self-giving) and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God.
- nurture and 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.
- foster a concern for the needs of others.

In summary, within our daily act of collective worship we aim to:

- provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- celebrate all that is good and beautiful and express thankfulness for the joy of being alive;
- provide opportunities for children to share what is meaningful and significant to them, including the darker side of life;
- ensure that the experiences provided are relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the children;

- give time for silent reflection and exploration of inner space;
- illustrate forms of worship that others have found helpful in their spiritual development, e.g. silent contemplation, dance, singing;
- provide a rich variety of forms of expression, e.g. art, drama, music, story and give children the opportunity to experience these at their own level rather than teachers imposing their own interpretations;
- enable it to take place in an environment that is conducive to worship, which is professionally coordinated and properly resourced;
- always invite, never coerce, remembering that children will be at different stages of spiritual development and that they should feel able to respond and participate at their own level.

(National Society Web site, 2007)

Monday	Whole school worship with Headteacher - Christian Value of the half term with a Take Away task to be completed over the week.
Tuesday	Whole school worship with Incumbent or whole school worship led by a member of staff with an awareness day theme
Wednesday	Picture News. Relevant, events throughout the world, reflections based on how we can respond/think/feel as Christians
Thursday	Songs of Worship
Friday	Let Your Light Shine Worship – VIP (Values in Practice) celebrations and reflecting on the Take Away from Monday

Prayer

We use a variety of prayer in our worship, combining traditional Anglican prayer with more modern prayer and prayers written by our pupils and staff.

We use a variety of Call and Response in our worship, reflecting Anglican tradition.

Structure to Worship

We open worship with The Lord be with you. And also with you.

We then recite our Trinity Candle Prayer:

Dear Lord,

We light these candles to remind us that You are here among us,

As Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Through our Worship,

May God's **love** fill our hearts and shine through our actions.

May we follow the example of Jesus, living with **kindness**.

And may we trust in the Holy Spirit so we may act with **respect**.

Amen

We ask the question 'Where is God?' and children respond with actions:

God is in our thoughts.

God is in our hearts.

God is in our actions.

God is everywhere!

We then share our 6 Christian Values and the value for this half term.

A Bible quote of the week is then shared.

We then look at the part of the Bible we will be discussing such as Old or New Testament and where in the Bible it comes using the Understanding Christianity frieze.

There is then an opportunity for Learning and Reflecting

On a Monday, the Take Away task is then shared to be completed during the week and revisited on Friday.

Next is the reflection and the same prayer which is used all week - this is invitational.

We close with the Grace.

On a Friday, we celebrate those who have been letting their light shine.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole school cycle of self-review and this will be achieved over time by asking stakeholders to reflect on school worship.

Monitoring

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the Headteacher and the Christian Distinctiveness/Collective Worship co-ordinator. Strategies for collecting the evidence will include:

- written observations (including pupil and staff questionnaires)
- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest;
- conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback;
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors;
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school;
- holding regular discussions with colleagues

Feedback will be brought to staff meetings which will review collective worship which will be held regularly. In Eccleston C.E. Primary School this will occur regularly on a termly cycle.

Pupil Involvement

All our pupils take part in the Worship Leader Programme, working their way through various standards appropriate to their age. Please see Appendix 1.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

A daily act of collective worship is held for all children regardless of their background of culture or religion. Every effort is made by the school to involve all children unless withdrawn by their parents in accordance with the law. For those children who are not able to access Worship in the hall, the same provision is made for them on a 1:1 basis.

Responsibilities

It is the ultimate responsibility of the Headteacher and Governing Board of a school to ensure a daily act of collective worship takes place. At Eccleston C.E. Primary School the responsibility to co-ordinate the acts of worship is delegated to the Headteacher. She plans themes, invites and liaises with visiting speakers. Monitoring and evaluation is the responsibility of the Headteacher alongside the Foundation Governors.

Conclusion

At Eccleston C.E. Primary School, collective worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take an active part in a high quality daily act of collective worship. Worship may contain many elements but at Eccleston C.E. Primary School we seek to specifically ensure that the act of collective worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter.

Appendix 1

ECCLESTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL WORSHIP LEADER PROGRAMME

“Let your light shine”

-Matthew 5:16

This is designed to provide a structure to support our children to become confident leaders of Collective Worship.

Rainbow Certificate (Reception)

- I can help my teacher lead Collective Worship by inviting participants to pray and by helping to light the candle

Emerald Certificate (Year 1)

As for Reception and;

- I can prepare the worship table by setting out the candle, Bible and any other artefacts
- With the help of an adult, I can plan with others and help to lead an act of worship with my class

Ruby Certificate (Year 2)

As for Year 1 and;

- I can prepare the worship table
- I can plan with others and help to lead an act of worship for my class
- I can talk about why Christians celebrate Christmas and Easter
- I can say the Lord's Prayer and talk about the meaning of some parts of it

Bronze Certificate (Year 3)

As for Year 2 and;

- I can plan and lead, with a small group of others, an act of worship for the class which includes a welcome, a story and a prayer

Silver Certificate (Year 4)

As for year 3 and;

- I can evaluate an act of worship led by others and feedback constructively, suggesting improvements where appropriate
- I can find passages in the Bible as the root of our worship
- I can create a prayer which can be used in our class prayer space

Gold Certificate (Year 5)

As for Year 4 and;

- I can plan and lead each element in a whole act of worship, working with others to produce any drama, Powerpoints or visual aids needed

- I can design a template to evaluate the impact of worship and use it to evaluate the worship I have planned and led

Platinum Certificate (Year 6)

As for Year 5 and;

- I can talk about some of the symbols used in worship and in particular how symbols can help our understanding of God as Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- I can describe how the Bible is made up of different types of writing and say some of the books in the New Testament
- I can confidently find passages in the New Testament using the contents page that are being used in worship
- I can explain the cycle of the church calendar and the reasons Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and Epiphany are marked in special ways