



Emmaus Church of England and Catholic Primary School



"We are friends journeying with Jesus in faith, hope and trust as we live, love and learn together."

Collective Worship Policy

September 2026

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Rationale

We aim to provide the children with a daily act of Collective Worship as the law requires. Worship in Emmaus is more than a legal requirement; it is central to the development of the knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith and forms an essential part of the life of the school. It is also part of the whole curriculum which is instrumental in promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the school community. We aim to make the worship relevant, alive and interesting. The worship, whilst respecting the diversity of belief and commitment is Christian in character, reflecting the liturgical traditions of the Church of England and Catholic Church.

Our clergy, Father Anthony Kelly and Deacon Chris Housbey at Our Lady Queen of Martyr's Catholic Church and Reverend Kate Thornton at St Cuthbert's Church of England Church, ably assist us by leading worship on special occasions. We also invite other clergy/people to take part in Collective Worship as this contributes to an enriching experience for the children.

Key Beliefs and Aspects of the Christian Faith

Collective Worship in Emmaus is Christian, reflecting the liturgical traditions of the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches. Our key beliefs are:

- the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- the nature of humans as children of God and part of His creation
- Jesus as the Son of God who through His life, death and resurrection restored our relationship with God
- the central values of forgiveness, love, goodness, compassion and charity
- the central place of the Bible in our faith
- the significance of the Sacraments
- the importance of prayer
- the central symbols of Christianity
- the cycle of the church's year.

Purpose

Worship means 'giving God worth'. Within the school setting it has been extended to describe the act of giving worth to values and qualities. We also believe it is a quiet moment in a busy day when 'earth touches Heaven' and we can communicate with God. Our 'Celebrations of the Word' are designed to allow the children to respond in a variety of ways. We want them to understand worship as a time to:

- get to know Jesus
- remember Jesus is always near us
- talk to God and think about His teaching
- say sorry to God
- thank God for our wonderful world
- show gratitude to God for what we have
- think of others less fortunate and ask God for help
- ask God for support and guidance
- share thoughts and ideas together
- respect each other
- participate and listen.

Collective Worship also enables the children, staff, governors and visitors to our school to explore, encounter and experience. We wish to explore questions which are important to everyone:

- the nature of God
- what it means to be faithful
- how we relate to each other
- relating personal experiences to a spiritual dimension
- linking moral issues to Bible stories
- dealing with life and death issues
- coping with concerns and worries.

We want to encounter a faith which is alive by reflecting on:

- our relationship with God
- the importance of prayer, meditation and silence
- the practical demonstration of love and compassion which brings us closer to God
- how creation helps us relate to the power of God
- allowing space and time for contemplating the mystery of God.

We wish to experience the joy of celebrating God's love by:

- looking at Christian symbols
- linking with Church year themes and services
- hearing a variety of Bible stories
- listening to music, poetry and stories
- singing and moving in drama
- thinking, reflecting and being quiet
- listening to each other and feeling intimate
- welcoming visitors
- sharing achievements and good news

Guidelines

Provision

Collective Worship is an activity which all can contribute to and from which all can gain. It has great value in the variety of provision we have at Emmaus; individual classes, year groups, key stages and whole school. These allow for both intimate moments in classes and opportunities for bringing the whole school together and fostering the identity of 'our school' using our mission statement,

“We are friends journeying with Jesus in faith, hope and trust
as we live, love and learn together.”

Planning

Collective Worship is planned with an overall theme (Christian value) given for each half term, with specific details for each week. Guidance is provided with reference to relevant resources. Festivals, Holy Days and significant Saints' days are incorporated into the overall plan. There is also room for flexibility, with opportunities to respond to school, local and national events. Each 'Celebration of the Word' should begin with a welcome and have opportunities to share, sing, listen, reflect and pray. We believe that the teacher should prepare and lead most 'Celebrations of the Word' and be an excellent role model for children to emulate. Children are involved in the planning and deliverance of worship once every week or two weeks.

Resources

All staff are given a 'Roots and Fruits' planner which has clearly laid out Collective Worship plans following the Gather, Listen, Respond, Go forth sequence. The R.E. Lead also provides staff with additional information and PowerPoints to supplement 'Roots and Fruits'. We follow the two-year cycle of this scheme of work, one value per half term.

Year of Cycle	Christian Values
Year One	Thankfulness, Trust, Perseverance, Justice, Service and Truthfulness.
Year Two	Generosity, Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness, Friendship and Respect.

The headteacher uses 'Values for Life'.

Atmosphere

It is important to create the appropriate atmosphere before the act of worship. Children should move silently and slowly into the Hall sitting with their own class and teacher. They should wait quietly whilst other classes enter, thereby heightening the feeling of expectancy. There should be an obvious distinction between worship and curriculum work when 'Celebrations of the Word' take place in classes. Quiet music and a focus table all help to create the right ambience.

Organisation

The pattern for whole school, key stage and class worship is varied.

Leadership of the 'Celebrations of the Word' is according to the following pattern but there is room for flexibility, especially when key personnel are absent or otherwise occupied.

Key Stage 2

Monday	10:00 am	Whole School Celebration of the Word	Mr Williams/Mrs Yates
Tuesday	10:35 am	Singing Hymns worship	Miss Newton
Wednesday	Up to 10 minutes at any time	Class Celebration of the Word Children plan every one or two weeks	Class teacher
Thursday	Up to 10 minutes at any time	Class Celebration of the Word	Class teacher
Friday	10:00 am	Celebratory worship	Mr Williams/Mrs Yates

Key Stage 1

Monday	10:00 am	Whole School Celebration of the Word	Mr Williams/Mrs Yates
Tuesday	10:00 am	Singing Hymns worship	Miss Newton
Wednesday	Up to 10 minutes at any time	Class Celebration of the Word Children assist in planning	Class teacher
Thursday	10:00 am	Celebratory worship	Mr Williams/Mrs Yates
Friday	Up to 10 minutes at any time	Class Celebration of the Word	Class teacher

EYFS-Class Collective Worship every day.

Reception classes join in whole school assemblies during the summer term.

Reception classes to Year 6 take part in whole school worship/religious services, celebrating holy days or specific calendar events.

Services are also held in St. Cuthbert's and Our Lady Queen of Martyr's churches on special occasions, including First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We also hold a Leavers' service for Year 6 children and their parents at both churches. (Alternate years).

Inter-faith

Worship in Emmaus has an essential role to play in developing the children's understanding of their own faith. It can also develop an appreciation of other faiths. The children become aware of differences in approach and belief of other faith communities and learn to respect them.

Conclusion

To meet the rationale, purposes and guidelines of this policy we endeavour to ensure that all children experience many faceted acts of worship. The rich diversity of worship practice may include song, reading, prayer, music, drama, procession, movement, actions, standing, sitting, eyes open or closed, meditation, silence, sense of beauty, awe, wonder, peace, thankfulness, joy, sadness, personal relationships, modern or traditional content and form.

Responsibility for the management of Collective Worship is given to the RE Lead for the development of 'Spiritual Dimension'. She provides themes and resources linked to the Church's year, after discussion with colleagues and clergy, and plans whole school acts of worship to mark special events, such as Harvest, Remembrance, Advent and Easter. The RE Lead supports staff in planning their class 'Celebrations of the Word', as needed. The link governors for Collective Worship are Ann Caffrey and Chris Housbey.

Our overall aim is to make Collective Worship relevant to the child; make it God centred and make it child centred.

Miss Sue Dickson
RE Lead
September 2026