



Essendon C of E (VC) Primary School

Encouraging everyone's light to shine (Matthew 5:16)

Collective Worship Policy

Policy number: ET09

Frequency of Review: 3 years

Date of Ratification: January 2021

Ratified by: Ethos Committee

Date of Next Review: January 2024

To be read and reviewed in conjunction with:

- Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Policy (TL01)
- Church of England Statement of Entitlement (<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/religious-education-and-collective-worship>)
- SIAMs inspection framework

Worship is...

*Giving honour and reverence to a supreme being.
Christian worship is concerned with bringing praise, prayer,
thanksgiving and adoration to God.*

It is an activity of response: in words, actions and thoughts.

Mission statement

Collective worship plays a central part in the life of Essendon School. Collective worship is a means by which the school's Christian vision is expressed (Strand 6 SIAMS 2018). As an expression of the Christian vision, ethos and spiritual life of the school, it offers the whole school community opportunities to experience, participate in and take responsibility for the living expression of Christian worship, valued and honoured through the school's Anglican Foundation. This is set within the context of the corporate community of our school and its historic partnership with Essendon Church. We affirm every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability, background or religion.

Legal requirements:

Trust Deed

Our daily act of collective worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. This requires worship to be consistent with the faith, principles and practices of the Church of England.

DfES guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collective-worship-in-schools>

1988 Education Act

The 1988 Education Act states, 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall in each school day take part in an act of collective worship', and that this should be 'mainly of a broadly Christian character'

Worship and/or Assemblies

We are mindful that worship should not become mere assembly. In order for worship to be worship it must include prayer. While we have a celebration assembly in order to celebrate pupil's achievements, care is taken that this is still regarded as an act of worship through saying prayer at the end of the celebration to thank God for pupil's achievements and successes.

Section 48 Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

All church schools will be inspected on collective worship and the impact this has on the whole school community (Strand 6 of the SIAMS 2018 schedule). The core question of this strand is, the ways in which collective worship is an expression of the school's Christian vision. At Essendon School this inspection will evaluate the school's collective worship on the following:

- that it is inclusive, invitational and inspiring
- offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.

- enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to appropriate training.
- encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

The right of withdrawal

We recognise the right of withdrawal from worship for pupils at the request of parents and for staff, but encourage discussion with the relevant individuals to ensure that there is understanding of the aims and objectives of worship, and strategies for minimising the disruption caused by any withdrawals.

Aims of worship

The gathering of pupils each day incorporates collective worship. Worship will be:

- Appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils.
- Provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders (see Collective Worship planner).
- This can happen as either a whole class, Key Stage or whole school.

Worship should provide opportunities to:

- enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils
- foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- create an atmosphere in which God is both normal and natural
- foster a reverential attitude to God
- foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways
- actively involve pupils in the delivery of worship in creative and imaginative ways (reading, poetry, drama, dance, quiet / silent reflection, prayer, singing)
- explore and enjoy praise, prayer and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)
- affirm the Christian faith and the central Christian status of Jesus as the Son of God
- affirm the Christian belief in the Trinity and explore the meaning of each person of the Trinity
- explore Eucharistic worship (where appropriate) within the Anglican tradition
- enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian adherents
- foster and value a search for a faith to live by
- explore the school's Christian values to deepen pupils understanding of them and how they relate to the school, local community and wider world
- learn about and reflect upon Christian teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community
- worship together rather than apart
- provide an evocative setting for worship that fosters spiritual growth and reflection
- experience a broad spectrum of Christian tradition (various expressions of worship)
- inspire pupils to explore further their own faith and tradition
- encourage pupils and staff to plan, participate and lead in worship
- develop a sense of community and shared values
- consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit
- celebrate achievements of members of the school in every aspect of school life
- foster a thought-provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response
- make regular use of local church buildings for worship

Other opportunities that worship can offer are:

- celebrate the beliefs and cultures of others particularly those represented in our school/academy

- celebrate of achievements of members of the school/academies community
- reinforce school expectations, good behaviour and school/academies routines
- share local school/academies and community information

Management of worship

The responsibility for collective worship lies with the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors. In practice, the planning and delivery of collective worship will be carried out in conjunction with the SLT, RE leader, Collective Worship Group leader, Essendon Church and the wider teaching staff. All teachers in our school are 'spiritual leaders' and have a responsibility to help pupils develop spiritual awareness.

Resourcing worship

Worship will be adequately resourced to ensure that it is regarded as an important part of school life. Pupils are encouraged and provided opportunities to plan acts of worship in their own classes and within Worship Group, so that they have ownership of it.

Monitoring, evaluating & action planning

Worship is monitored and evaluated frequently in order to ensure that it meets the needs of all who take part. All stakeholders opinions are sought. A yearly action plan which feeds into the school development plan is written and revised to ensure that worship remains relevant and up to date.