



# Essendon C of E Primary School

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

## Collective Worship Policy

Frequency of Review: 3 years

Date of Ratification: October 2025

Date of Next Review: October 2028

To be read and reviewed in conjunction with:

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

### Our Vision

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

Essendon School strives to be a tolerant, caring, and inclusive Christian family which values each individual and encourages their light to shine in spirit, mind and body.

### Our Bible Text

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew Chapter 5 vs 14-16

## **Our Values**

At Essendon, we are 'Going for Gold!' Each half term, we focus on a different value:

- Motivation
- Cooperation
- Independence
- Respect
- Kindness
- Challenge

These Essendon values underpin everything we do and teach as a school, helping to develop our children as both individuals as well as members of a wider global community.

## **British Values**

Our school values are based on fundamental British values and form the basis of our social, moral, spiritual and cultural provisions. The fundamental British Values, defined by the Government, are:

- Democracy – we demonstrate how democracy works through discussion, decision-making and voting.
- The Rule of Law – we demonstrate how rules and laws help to keep us safe and happy.
- Individual Liberty – we demonstrate how we all have individual freedom to choose faiths, beliefs, likes and dislikes.
- Mutual Respect – we demonstrate respect and tolerance to everyone in our school community.
- Tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs – we demonstrate respect and tolerance towards other beliefs and faiths.

## **Our vision for collective worship**

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:**

Our school community is Christian in its foundation and ethos, but it was established to serve the whole community and is open to all. All are welcome to work here, volunteers here, and all children are welcome to learn and to grow as people with us.

As a Christian community prayer and worship are at the heart of our common life. Our school vision is inspired by Christian faith to everyone's light to shine. Our daily act of collective worship is both an

expression of our vision and a means to support us in our daily work to make our vision a reality. We recognise that as an accessible and inclusive Essendon family. We can never apply any pressure on anyone to take part in anything that makes them feel uneasy, or which is conflicting to their own faith or world view.

This policy describes the place of collective worship in our community life and the invitation the school makes to everyone to share in that experience, whilst respecting the rights of anyone within the community not to participate.

### **Introduction**

- Collective worship is central to the life of us at Essendon Church of England Primary School.
- Worship offers the children, staff, parents, governors, and our wider school community an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian ethos.
- Collective worship reflects our vision statement and core values and shapes our approach to others and to everything we do in school.
- Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community, whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive, and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.
- Our school explores the school's Christian values to deepen pupils understanding of them and how they relate to the school, local community and wider world
- We encourage pupils and staff to plan, participate and lead in worship
- We develop a sense of community and shared values
- We consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- We 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 encourage pupils and staff to plan, participate and lead in worship
- We encourage our local church and village 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 and Intentions**

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
- This can happen as either a whole class, Key Stage or whole school.
- Develop a reflective approach to life and reflect on Christian values

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

Our collective worship will at times reflect our curriculum and aim to:

- celebrate the beliefs and cultures of others particularly those represented in our school
- celebrate of achievements of members of the school's community
- reinforce school expectations, good behaviour and school routines

- nurture spiritual growth
- consider moral and topical issues in a Christian context
- enhance social understanding
- explore beliefs drawn from the faith and cultural heritage of all members of both our school community and the wider community in which we live.

### **The pattern of collective worship in our school**

Collective worship takes place in our school every day.

Worship can take place in the school hall, or occasionally in classrooms, in the parish church, or in other community spaces

Our collective worship follows the seasons of the Church's calendar-Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and marks significant festivals and other special days, including Harvest, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, and Pentecost

### **Management of worship**

The responsibility for collective worship lies with the Principal and the Chair of Governors. However in practice, the planning and delivery of collective worship will be carried out in conjunction with the Leadership Team, RE leader, At Mary's 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.