



UPPER WHARFEDALE PRIMARY FEDERATION

Collective Worship Policy

Be the Light

Matthew 5:14

Our vision is to help each child **flourish** into a caring, confident and resilient young person who has a **love of learning**. We will do this through our shared Christian **values** of Love, Kindness, Forgiveness, Thankfulness and Trust. We will uphold high aspirations for all our children, through our **innovative** and **inspiring** approach to teaching and learning.

Policy review: January 25

Next Review: January 28

Executive Headteachers: Claire Greenwood and Wendy Thompson

Chair of Governors: Kester Horn

1. Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school and reaffirms our vision:

Be the Light

Matthew 5:14

Our vision is to help each child **flourish** into a caring, confident and resilient young person who has a **love of learning**. We will do this through our shared Christian **values** of Love, Kindness, Forgiveness, Thankfulness and Trust. We will uphold high aspirations for all our children, through our **innovative** and **inspiring** approach to teaching and learning.

Collective Worship celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. 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.

The Upper Wharfedale Primary Federation comprises the schools of Burnsall CE Primary (VA), Cracoe and Rylstone CE (VC) Primary, Grassington CE (VC) Primary and Kettlewell Primary School. We also have a federation preschool which is based at Grassington CE Primary. All four schools are in North Yorkshire, catering for children aged from 3 to 11. Three out of our four schools are Church of England schools.

This Collective Worship policy has been designed with our schools' population in mind. It is written in accordance with guidance from North Yorkshire's Standing Advisory Council for RE (SACRE).

The legal requirements of collective worship in Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools:

- Be conducted in accordance with the provision of the Trust Deeds of the school and Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England
- The Governing Body should ensure that all pupils **each day** engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship which is in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church
- Arrangements for collective worship, in foundation schools of a religious character, are the responsibility of the Governing Body, after consulting with the Headteacher (*DfE Circular 1/94 para 52 & 53*)
- All acts of worship in Church schools must be Christian in character (based on Biblical teachings)
- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdraw –see appendix 2) must on 'each school day take part in an act of collective worship'

2. Policy statement

What is Collective Worship?

Legislation requires schools, including Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools, to conduct daily acts of Collective Worship. However, the legislation does not define what is meant by the term 'Collective Worship'.

“... Worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to ‘collective worship’ rather than ‘corporate worship’. (DfE Circular 1/94 para 57)

Corporate worship assumes a shared set of beliefs and values, i.e., a worshipping congregation meeting on a Sunday, where the worship is confessional and evangelistic (to spread the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness).

Collective worship, in recognising the collectivity of all participants, can make no such assumption that all have the same beliefs and values.

Collective Worship should be:

“Appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes.” (DfE Circular 1/94 p.22)

Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other’s joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

This Collective Worship policy reflects the law (the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act) and strengthens the community ethos of the school. Collective Worship will take place daily and will be planned so as to be appropriate to all pupils of any religion or none, to enable them to be present and take part as appropriate.

The aims of collective worship in our Church of England schools:

- To provide an opportunity for staff and all pupils to meet together each day to worship God, explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues.
- To be sensitive to the needs of all children and make the assembly accessible to all.
- To ensure worship is wholly Christian, but materials from other faiths may be included where appropriate.
- To develop a sense of community within the school and celebrate achievements and special occasion.
- To enable pupils to explore a variety of forms of worship.
- Where possible collective worship will link to parts of the school curriculum e.g., religious education and PSHCE curriculum.
- To involve children in an active way in the worship.
- In our school worship we aim to reflect the vision of the federation, 'Be the Light'.
- To provide children with a sense of awe and wonder for the world around them and empathy for others.

All present should feel valued whatever their faith or personal beliefs. Under no circumstances will pupils be asked to accept beliefs, which are contrary to their family background. They will reflect the beliefs and backgrounds of individual pupils and encourage a voluntary response from pupils.

Worship will acknowledge and respect the responses of individual pupils and provide opportunities for them to express their feelings, delight at life, wonder, joy, rejoicing, sorrow, etc. Collective worship will not assume a shared religious commitment. They will encourage pupils to consider their own place in the community and what it means to be a citizen.

The school values the impact of collective worship on the wellbeing of all members of the school community and ensures that collective worship is regularly monitored and evaluated by the Collective Worship Committee/Faith who meet at least once a half term.

In line with the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that collective worship

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- b) 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/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- c) 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.
- d) 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 regular training.
- e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

3. **Planning Worship (see Appendix 1)**

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors in consultation with the collective worship leader. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g., whole school, key stage or class. Our school plans worship systematically and cohesively using *a range of resources including understanding Christianity, Roots and Shoots*. Resources are adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the long- and short-term planning of worship and this enables continuity. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with this policy as well as our school visitor and safeguarding policies. This should include discussing the content of any worship with the collective worship leader in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

Preschool

Our Federation Preschool, which runs from Grassington School, does not access collective worship however our Pre-school children will come together when appropriate in their day to reflect on:

Examples from which the school may draw:

1. marking the celebration of religious and cultural festivals that reflect the diversity of faiths contained within the community;

2. examples of lives of people of faith;
3. stories supporting themes from the bible;
4. response to key local, national and international events;
5. providing an opportunity to think about their own beliefs whether religious or otherwise;
6. consideration of questions you wouldn't think about elsewhere – not necessarily with easy / definitive answers;
7. putting things into practice – e.g., supporting charities;
8. providing a moment for silent reflection / prayer;
9. celebration of successes of members of the school community;
10. shared experiences and celebrating diversity of physical, mental and spiritual nature • performances or presentations from members of the school community; •
11. input from visiting speakers / experts.

Developing Worship

The school allocates part of its budget to support collect worship. Governors recognise the need for professional development of staff in the review and delivery of collective worship and ensure training is offered on both an individual and whole staff basis. The collective worship leader attends regular professional development with the Diocese of Leeds and accesses the support of the named adviser through the Enhanced Service Plan to ensure that worship is inclusive, invitational and inspirational.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

The executive headteachers and foundation Governors have overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation. Formal monitoring of collective worship happens on an annual basis. Our school regularly evaluates the breadth of acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order for worship to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our Governing Body and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

Pupils can nominate themselves to be part of a Collective Worship Committee. Pupils who represent these committees or groups meet at least once per half term to lead collective worship and evaluate with a member of staff.

5. Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

The Upper Wharfedale Primary Federation upholds an Equal Opportunities Policy. All parents will be offered the opportunity for their children to participate in Collective Acts of Worship activities, with provision being made for children with special requirements e.g., disabilities requiring assistance for practical activities.

6. Responsibilities

Mrs Greenwood, co-executive headteacher, is the collective worship leader for the federation. She will:

- Ensure the centrality of worship in the life of the school
- Allocate appropriate time for collective worship
- Be responsible for co-ordinating collective worship
- Set high expectations and monitor the quality of provision for collective worship
- Support individual teachers and others delivering Collective Worship, enabling them to attend appropriate training
- Distinguish Collective Worship from notices and 'assembly'
- Organise occasions when worship takes place in church
- Ensure a worshipful atmosphere be created and sustained
- Give opportunities for parents and governors to attend
- Foster and promote strong links with Parish Clergy and church communities

The Board of Governors will:

- Appoint a team of foundation Governors (SMSC team) to monitor and liaise with the headteacher over Collective Worship
- Ensure that the legal requirements for worship are met
- Be well informed and encourage the development of collective worship through the leadership of the executive headteachers and base leaders
- Support the staff in implementing the school's policy for Collective Worship
- Monitor Collective Worship through the SMSC team
- Monitor and review progress and provision enabling, through the school budget, sufficient resources to be available for the provision of excellent opportunities for Collective Worship
- Appoint staff who are actively supportive of the aims and ethos of a church school
- Familiarise themselves with the vision and values statement and ensure its implementation
- Protect the centrality of worship to the life of the school
- Ensure the school's worship reflects its Anglican heritage
- Encourage links to be made with the local churches and clergy resources for collective worship

Teachers will:

- Follow the Medium-Term Plan for Collective Worship
- Ensure that the correct amount of time is given to Collective Worship
- Use relevant up to date and stimulating resources
- Ensure that children of all abilities have access to worship and know that they are special
- Encourage positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Give children a range of experiences of worship, for example, stillness, quietness and time to reflect, as well as singing, celebration, wonder and time to respond
- Encourage links with local churches, visiting speakers, parishioners and the wider church
- Monitor and evaluate worship experiences
- Nurture Christian values that impact on children enabling them to flourish
- Use resources from other cultures and religions to enhance worship
- Respond to worldwide, national and local events to help children come to terms with them, as well as issues which arise in school

Parents will:

- Be encouraged to develop positive attitudes to the school's approach to Collective Worship and its relationship with the local and wider church

- Be encouraged to participate in acts of worship, particularly those in church and praise assemblies
- Share their own talents and skills, insights and concerns

7. **Organisation and Delivery**

More details of the organisation and delivery of our collective worship can be found in appendix 1. Collective worship is provided daily for every pupil often as a whole school for approximately 20 minutes in the hall or Classroom 2 (Cracoe). Collective worship will be led by teaching staff, visitors, clergy and Governors. Opportunities for parents and Governors to attend will be created.

Worship will be distinguished from other notices and assemblies. On occasions, worship will take place in church (Easter, Christmas, harvest and leavers service).

Music will be played to create prayerful atmosphere and candles and a seasonal focus table will be used. A range of approaches will be used including storytelling, drama, puppets, visual aids, role play, music etc.

8. **Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship on grounds of conscience should they wish to do so, but we believe that Collective Worship is inclusive and beneficial for all pupils. Parents are asked to contact the Executive Headteacher to discuss any concerns. If the parent still wishes to withdraw, they must sign the form (appendix 2) and this will be passed on to the Chair of Governors.

It is hoped that no child will have to be withdrawn from Collective Worship, but where this is the case, the following arrangements will be made. A member of staff will provide and supervise an alternative activity in a classroom.

Appendix 1: The Rhythm of Worship at Burnsall VA Primary

The following pattern is followed, providing a daily rhythm to our worship

Gathering	<p>We aim to ensure children 'cross a threshold' into worship. We gather in worship to the sound of music. The music plays before the children arrive as a 'call' to worship. In whole school worship children or a visitor bring a candle to the focus table to remind us of our school vision.</p> <p>Once the pupils are settled. The leader will say. We are here to worship together in the Christian value of 'May the Lord be with you'. Children and adults respond with 'and also with you'. The children know we light a candle at the start of our collective worship. Children are taught that it reminds us of Jesus Christ, light of the world and of our school vision 'be the light'.</p>
Engaging	We aim to stimulate the interest of children through a range of storytelling, drama, activities, poetry, videos, slides etc around a single simple focus.
Actively responding	In every worship session, children and adults will have an opportunity to respond to the focus of the worship. This may simply be through prayer and reflection but we try to provide for the range of pupils we have. In class worship time we encourage children to respond to the theme personally and deeply.
Sending	<p>Worship always ends with a prayer.</p> <p>Someone is invited to blow out the candles. Children leave to sound of music and the children collect their candles and return to their classes</p>

The following ongoing weekly pattern is generally followed:

Monday	3:00pm	<i>Songs of Praise - A musical act of collective worship</i>
Tuesday	3:00pm	<i>Collective worship committee – children lead their collective worship ensuring pupil participation and responses are encouraged.</i>
Wednesday	3:00pm	<i>Base leader</i>
Thursday	1:00pm	<i>Visitor leads the collective worship usually Revd</i>
Friday	1:00pm	<i>Praise assembly – Two pupils from each class are awarded a 'shine award'</i>

Our long-term cycle of worship provides a rhythm to the year:

	Year A	Year B	Year C
Autumn 1	Love	Love	Love
	Harvest	The Creation	Creation Stories
Autumn 2	Kindness	Kindness	Kindness
	Advent and Christmas	Image of God Advent & Christmas	Life in Modern Britain
Spring 1	Forgiveness	Forgiveness	Forgiveness
	Celebrations	Differences	Lent
Spring 2	Thankfulness	Thankfulness	Thankfulness
	Lent and Easter	Lent and Easter	Easter
Summer 1	Trust	Trust	Trust

	Right & Wrong	Journeys	Exploring religion through art
Summer 2	Light	Trust	Hope
	<i>Prayer</i>	<i>Pentecost</i>	<i>The Trinity</i>

Appendix 1: The Rhythm of Worship at Cracoe CE (VC) Primary

The following pattern is followed, providing a daily rhythm to our worship

Gathering	<p>We aim to ensure children 'cross a threshold' into worship. We gather in worship to the sound of music. The music plays before the children arrive as a 'call' to worship. In whole school worship children or a visitor bring a candle to the focus table to remind us of our school vision.</p> <p>Once the pupils are settled. The leader will say. We are here to worship together in the Christian value of 'May the Lord be with you'. Children and adults respond with 'and also with you'.</p> <p>The children know we light a candle at the start of our collective worship. Children are taught that it reminds us of Jesus Christ, light of the world and of our school vision 'be the light'.</p>
Engaging	We aim to stimulate the interest of children through a range of storytelling, drama, activities, poetry, videos, slides etc around a single simple focus.
Actively responding	In every worship session, children and adults will have an opportunity to respond to the focus of the worship. This may simply be through prayer and reflection but we try to provide for the range of pupils we have. In class worship time we encourage children to respond to the theme personally and deeply.
Sending	<p>Worship always ends with a prayer.</p> <p>Someone is invited to blow out the candles. Children leave to sound of music and the children collect their candles and return to their classes</p>

The following ongoing weekly pattern is generally followed:

Monday	3:00pm	<i>'Songs of Praise - A musical act of collective worship</i>
Tuesday	3:00pm	<i>Baseleader leads worship to introduce the theme and set the tone for the week</i>
Wednesday	3pm	<i>Collective worship committee run the collective worship fortnightly and Base leader runs when not child led</i>
Thursday	11:30am	<i>Visitor leads the collective worship usually Revd. Matthew</i>
Friday	3:00pm	<i>Praise assembly – Two pupils from each class are awarded a 'shine award' and one pupil from each class is nominated by staff and their peers as the 'learning hero'.</i>

Our long-term cycle of worship provides a rhythm to the year:

	Year A	Year B	Year C
Autumn 1	Love	Love	Love
	Harvest	The Creation	Creation Stories
Autumn 2	Kindness	Kindness	Kindness
	Advent and Christmas	Image of God Advent & Christmas	Life in Modern Britain
Spring 1	Forgiveness	Forgiveness	Forgiveness
	Celebrations	Differences	Lent
Spring 2	Thankfulness	Thankfulness	Thankfulness

	Lent and Easter	Lent and Easter	Easter
Summer 1	Trust	Trust	Trust
	Right & Wrong	Journeys	Exploring religion through art
Summer 2	Light	Trust	Hope
	<i>Prayer</i>	<i>Pentecost</i>	<i>The Trinity</i>

Appendix 1: The Rhythm of Worship at Grassington CE (VC) Primary

The following pattern is followed, providing a daily rhythm to our worship

Gathering	<p>We aim to ensure children 'cross a threshold' into worship. We gather in worship to the sound of music. The music plays before the children arrive as a 'call' to worship. In whole school worship children or a visitor bring a candle to the focus table to remind us of our school vision.</p> <p>Once the pupils are settled. The leader will say. We are here to worship together in the Christian value of 'May the Lord be with you'. Children and adults respond with 'and also with you'.</p> <p>The children know we light a candle at the start of our collective worship. Children are taught that it reminds us of Jesus Christ, light of the world and of our school vision 'be the light'.</p>
Engaging	We aim to stimulate the interest of children through a range of storytelling, drama, activities, poetry, videos, slides etc around a single simple focus.
Actively responding	In every worship session, children and adults will have an opportunity to respond to the focus of the worship. This may simply be through prayer and reflection but we try to provide for the range of pupils we have. In class worship time we encourage children to respond to the theme personally and deeply.
Sending	<p>Worship always ends with a prayer.</p> <p>Someone is invited to blow out the candles. Children leave to sound of music and the children collect their candles and return to their classes</p>

The following ongoing weekly pattern is generally followed:

Monday	3.00pm	<i>'Songs of Praise - A musical act of collective worship</i>
Tuesday	3.00pm	<i>Baseleader leads worship to introduce the theme and set the tone for the week</i>
Wednesday	3:00pm	<i>Collective worship committee – children lead their collective worship ensuring pupil participation and responses are encouraged.</i>
Thursday	3.00pm	<i>Visitor leads the collective worship usually Revd. Matthew.</i>
Friday	3:00pm	<i>Praise assembly – Two pupils from each class are awarded a 'shine award' and one pupil from each class is nominated by staff and their peers as the 'learning hero'.</i>

Our long-term cycle of worship provides a rhythm to the year:

	Year A	Year B	Year C
Autumn 1	Love	Love	Love
	Harvest	The Creation	Creation Stories
Autumn 2	Kindness	Kindness	Kindness
	Advent and Christmas	Image of God Advent & Christmas	Life in Modern Britain
Spring 1	Forgiveness	Forgiveness	Forgiveness
	Celebrations	Differences	Lent
Spring 2	Thankfulness	Thankfulness	Thankfulness

	Lent and Easter	Lent and Easter	Easter
Summer 1	Trust	Trust	Trust
	Right & Wrong	Journeys	Exploring religion through art
Summer 2	Light	Trust	Hope
	<i>Prayer</i>	<i>Pentecost</i>	<i>The Trinity</i>

Appendix 1: The Rhythm of Worship at Kettlewell Primary

The following pattern is followed, providing a daily rhythm to our worship

Gathering	<p>We aim to ensure children ‘cross a threshold’ into worship. We gather in worship to the sound of music. The music plays before the children arrive as a ‘call’ to worship. In whole school worship children or a visitor bring a candle to the focus table to remind us of our school vision. The person leading collective worship supports in lighting of the candles.</p> <p>Once the candles are lit, the person leading collective worship says ‘Welcome to our collective worship’</p> <p>The person leading collective worship asks why we light a candle at the start of our collective worship. Children are taught that it reminds us of our school vision ‘be the light’.</p>
Engaging	We aim to stimulate the interest of children through a range of storytelling, drama, activities, poetry, videos, slides etc around a single simple focus.
Actively responding	In every worship session, children and adults will have an opportunity to respond to the focus of the worship. This may simply be through prayer and reflection but we try to provide for the range of pupils we have. In class worship time we encourage children to respond to the theme personally and deeply.
Sending	<p>Worship always ends with the words</p> <p style="text-align: center;">‘We are the Light, Thank you for the friends we play with, Thank you for the school we learn in, Help us to blossom and grow And be the best we can be. We are the Light.’</p> <p>Someone is invited to blow out the candles. Children leave to sound of music and the children collect their candles and return to their classes</p>

The following ongoing weekly pattern is generally followed:

Monday	8:30am	<i>Class Worship: Staff lead their own worship to ensure pupil participation and responses are more precisely tailored to the particular class.</i>
Tuesday	2:40pm	<i>‘Songs of Praise - A musical act of collective worship</i>
Wednesday	2:40pm	<i>Baseleader led Collective Worship</i>
Thursday	2:40pm	<i>Class Worship: Staff lead their own worship to ensure pupil participation and responses are more precisely tailored to the particular class.</i>
Friday	2:40pm	<i>Praise assembly – Two pupils from each class are awarded a ‘shine award’ and one pupil from each class is nominated by staff and their peers as the ‘learning hero’.</i>

Our long-term cycle of worship provides a rhythm to the year:

	Year A	Year B	Year C
Autumn 1	Love	Love	Love

	Harvest	The Creation	Creation Stories
Autumn 2	Kindness	Kindness	Kindness
	Advent and Christmas	Image of God Advent & Christmas	Life in Modern Britain
Spring 1	Forgiveness	Forgiveness	Forgiveness
	Celebrations	Differences	Lent
Spring 2	Thankfulness	Thankfulness	Thankfulness
	Lent and Easter	Lent and Easter	Easter
Summer 1	Trust	Trust	Trust
	Right & Wrong	Journeys	Exploring religion through art
Summer 2	Light	Trust	Hope
	<i>Prayer</i>	<i>Pentecost</i>	<i>The Trinity</i>

Appendix 2 Parental Withdrawal

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

Date of validation..... Signed.....

Chair of Governors

Date of review..... Signed.....

Chair of Governors