

Durley CE (Controlled) Primary School

Policy for Collective Worship

Policy Agreed: March 2026

Policy Reviewed: March 2029

Introduction

As a church school, we strive to guide children towards a spiritual and moral life based on the Christian values - particularly the school's 'Core Christian Values' of Love, Respect and Forgiveness. Daily worship plays an integral and vital part of the children's day at school, giving the opportunity to join together with staff, parents and other adults in a collective act of reflection and worship.

Under the school's 'Terms of Union' with the National Society, when the school was founded in 1872, the expectation was set that *'all pupils each day will engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship which is in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church'*

Durley CE (Controlled) Primary School is subject to the requirements of the 1988 Education Act and the Education Act 1993, as outlined in Circular 1/94 'Religious education and Collective Worship'. The legal requirement for Church Schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.

Main Aims:

- To place our Christian ethos at the heart of our school – it is a celebration of the school's identity
- To develop the children's knowledge of Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and patterns of worship;
- To develop the feeling of belonging and contributing to a caring community, being mindful of the fact that children come from a variety of backgrounds both Christian and non-Christian;
- To provide an opportunity for reflection and stillness;
- To develop awareness and respect for other beliefs, traditions, cultures and patterns of worship;
- To enable spiritual awareness and to encourage curiosity;
- To celebrate children's worth and uniqueness.
- To support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, poetry, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication.

As a Church School we must fulfil two legal requirements for Collective Worship:

- Provide a daily Act of Worship for all pupils
- Ensure that Collective Worship is provided in accordance with the school's Trust Deed

The 1998 Education Act gives parents the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship.

The parental right to request that a child be wholly or partly excused from attending Acts of Worship will be respected. Parents who wish to exercise this right should discuss this with the Headteacher. After discussion, if withdrawal is required by the parent, the Headteacher should be informed of this in writing.

Any child withdrawn from an Act of Worship will be supervised by a member of staff in another part of the school

Pattern of Collective Worship

As a voluntary controlled Church of England school, the daily act of Collective Worship at Durley will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, delivered in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England.

In addition, we believe that the daily act of Collective Worship is a valuable educational experience and in such should reflect the specific aims of the school.

An act of Collective Worship should be suited to the family background of the pupils. This will include pupils whose parents are Christians or of another faith or belief. It is an educational activity that may provide an opportunity for worship.

Worship in our School will:

- Create a time and space where we can draw closer to God and to each other;
- Be distinctively Christian whilst also being invitational, inclusive and inspirational;
- Use and promote the clearly identified core Christian values of the school;
- Be related to Biblical text or themes;
- Enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- Be central in importance to the life of our school community, which is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world;
- Reflect on human existence and experience;
- Make use of the seasons and festivals of the Christian year;
- Develop understanding of Anglican traditions and the practice of the local parish church

For our learners, it will:

- Provide opportunities to reflect on the values of Respect, Love and Forgiveness, helping them to understand how these values guide their behaviour, relationships and decision-making
- Foster a sense of belonging in the school community, encouraging learners to show **respect** for themselves, others and the wider world
- Encourage learners to experience and share **love** through acts of kindness, empathy and appreciation of difference
- Help learners to understand the importance of **forgiveness**, enabling them to restore and reconcile relationships and develop resilience when doing this
- Support learners to explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural themes in an inclusive environment, where everyone feels valued and heard
- Offer time for stillness, reflection and curiosity, allowing our children to consider their own beliefs and feelings, as well as learn from the beliefs of others
- inspire learners to think about how they can contribute positively to the school, local community and beyond, living out the school's values in practical ways

To comply with the Policies of the Winchester and Portsmouth Dioceses, it will:

- Reflect the trust deed
- Be clearly outlined in the school prospectus and documentation
- involve adults and learners in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship
- be monitored and evaluated for the impact it has on the school community by the Foundation Governors

Central Attributes

Collective worship follows the suggested method for delivering worship using the following 'central attributes' or four key elements:

Gathering: Making special and significant this part of the day through appropriate symbol and ceremony;

Engaging: Stimulating interest in the theme or content of collective worship

Responding: Ensuring there is time and opportunity for individual, group reflection and thought, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways;

Sending: Summarising the worship in a meaningful short message used to create an opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas covered and to conclude the worship.

Organisation

The following weekly plan has been developed to ensure that children have the opportunity for whole school or class worship.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole school worship in the hall	Class worship in the classrooms	Singing worship in the hall	Whole School Worship in the hall	Celebration Worship in the hall
Led by the Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher or Rev Gregg	Led by the class teacher	Led by the Music Leader	Led by class teachers on a rota	Led by the Headteacher or Assistant Headteacher

'Grace' and 'Farewell' prayers are said daily in class.

Special celebrations of worship for the whole community are held at school, or at the parish church, for parents, governors and friends of the school. These mark special days and festivals such as Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' worship.

We welcome visitors and members of our community to lead worship in accordance with our ethos and policy for worship. Regular worships are led by members of our Ministry.

Elements of Worship and Resources

Each class has their own reflection area and this is a focus for their class Acts of Worship, for example a display or a small prayer table.

There is a variety of specific artefacts to aid Worship. These include a variety of crosses, candles, other Christian symbols (eg. cross), posters, bibles / bible stories, prayer books, music. Each class has a Bible and a collection of prayers to use. Other bibles, bible stories, Christian artefacts and prayer books are kept in the library and resources area.

All worship planning, overviews and resources are located and saved on the school's Google Drive.

Opportunities for Children:

Reflection Areas:

Each class has their own reflection area and this is a focus for their class Acts of Worship, for example a display or a small prayer table.

There is a variety of specific artefacts to aid Worship. These include a variety of crosses, candles, other Christian symbols (eg. cross), posters, bibles / bible stories, prayer books, music. Each class has a Bible and a collection of prayers to use. Other bibles, bible stories, Christian artefacts and prayer books are kept in the library and resources area.

Values Certificates:

Each week, in Celebration Worship, a child from each class will be chosen and celebrated for demonstrating our values. That child will receive a certificate to take home.

Prayer:

At the start and end of every whole school worship, children from Year 6 will be invited to read the opening and closing prayer.

Celebrations throughout the Year:

The school comes together to celebrate different festivals within the school year, such as harvest, Christmas and Christingle. During these times, children will be fully involved in leading celebrations and members of the school community are invited to join us during these key festivals. These events are held either in school or at Durley Church and are such a special time for us in school.

The Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) Team:

This is made up of children from both Years 5 and 6 and these children lead class worship and prayers across the school, as well as whole school worship.

Prayer:

Children will be given the opportunity to learn our school prayer, the Lord's prayer and other prayers such as one before lunch and at the end of the day. Children also have the opportunity to write and say their own individual prayers.

Music and Song:

Pieces of music reflecting our worship themes will be shared with the children. Each week, in singing worship, children will learn and sing songs that reflect worship themes. These songs are also sung in other worships and at Christian festivals and occasions throughout the year e.g. harvest.

Visits to Durley Church:

Children will be given the opportunity to visit and attend worships for key festivals or milestones – harvest, Christmas, Christingle or the Leaver's Service.

Visits by local clergy:

Worships will be led by members of the local clergy and church community. Rev Gregg, rector of Durley, Botley and Curdridge leads whole school worship on a regular basis and also leads events such as our whole school Easter service.

Evaluation and Monitoring

The head teacher and Governors are responsible for monitoring the Collective Worship. This process will involve all staff. It shall be carried out as part of the whole school self-review process.

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Durley Church of England Primary School Founded 7th March 1872



Terms of Union with the National Society

Recognising its historic foundations, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers all its pupils.

The governing body will ensure that the school is led by a headteacher who is committed, with the help of staff, to preserve and develop the Christian character of the school in its day to day activities and in the curriculum.

The governing body will offer a school life that incorporates the values of the Christian faith.

The governing body will 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.

The headteacher and the governing body will ensure that religious education is given at least five per cent of curriculum time and that such religious education is consistent with the faith and practice of the Church.

The school should observe the major Christian festivals and, where those of other faiths are present in the school, ensure that they are able and encouraged to mark their major festivals with integrity.

The school should maintain and develop an active and affirming relationship with the parish church of the parish in which the school is situated or a parish church of one of the parishes which the school serves.

The school should proclaim that it is a Church school on its external signboard and on its stationery and make appropriate use of Christian symbols inside and outside the school.

**Produced by the Portsmouth and Winchester Diocesan Board of Education
to mark the 200th anniversary of the National Society in 2011.**

References in these Terms of Union to 'the Church' are to the Church of England in respect of schools situated in the Provinces of Canterbury or York.
The governing body and the trustees of the school must ensure that the school is designated by the Secretary of State under section 65 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (or any successor legislation) as having a religious character that is Church of England.
The instrument of government of the school should describe its ethos in the manner set out above or in words to the same effect.