

Collective Worship Policy

OUR TRUST'S PRAYER

Heavenly Father

Let peace, friendship and love grow in our schools

Send the Holy Spirit to give:

Excellence to our learning

Love to our actions and

Joy to our worship

Guide us to help others

So that we may all

Learn, Love and Achieve, Together with Jesus.

Amen

Our Christian Vision is:

'Learning and growing together to achieve our best in the love of God'

'Learning and growing together to achieve our best in the love of God' sums up our school vision and ethos that all children will have the opportunity to experience God's love and fulfil their potential across the curriculum, valuing themselves and others, living out our Christian values in order to make a positive difference in the world. This vision underpins our collective worship policy.

Our School Aims

In order to prepare today's children for tomorrow's challenges, Rainford CE Primary Schools aims to achieve the following:

- Every child will be encouraged to understand the meaning and significance of faith, experience God's love and develop the spirituality to enable them to live out our Christian values of love, joy, peace, friendship, forgiveness, perseverance and justice
- Every child will achieve their full potential through being a highly motivated, resilient, and independent learner who embraces new experiences, has confidence to tackle challenges and go onto develop a lifelong love of learning.
- Every child will value themselves as a unique individual with special qualities and strengths developing self-discipline and honesty; taking responsibility for their own actions and appreciating their ability to make a positive difference in the world.
- Every child will appreciate and respect others, celebrate differences between individuals and groups and respect and care for God's creation and the environment.
- Every child will be encouraged to make healthy choices and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

In order to do this, we will constantly reflect the Christian ethos of our school in our relationships with our children, their families, our staff, the church and the wider community.

Equal Opportunities Statement

Rainford CE Primary School believes that everyone is valued as an individual, irrespective of protected characteristics including gender, disability, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or social circumstance, in line with the Equality Act 2010.

Rationale and legalities

Collective worship is provided daily and is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, in accordance with the requirements of the Education Act 1944 and School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Responsibility for ensuring compliance with this statutory duty rests with the Governing Board in line with the school's Trust Deed.

Church of England schools serve the local community which will include pupils of the Christian faith, of other faiths and of no faith. In drawing up this policy, regard has been given to the age, aptitude and background of the children in our school. At Rainford CE Primary School collective worship is central to our life and it reflects and explores the school's distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, spiritual development and well-being of all – pupils and staff. Worship offers our school community an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian ethos. It reflects our Christian vision and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

Collective Worship at Rainford CE Primary School is planned to:

- be **inspirational, invitational and inclusive**, engaging all who take part and enabling pupils and adults to reflect on the impact of worship on their own lives, their relationships and the wider life of the school
- **regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching**, clearly linked to and exploring the school's Christian vision
- have a **strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit**, supporting learners in developing an age-appropriate understanding of the Trinity
- enable pupils to **experience worship and prayer as a natural part of the rhythm of the school day**, including opportunities for stillness and reflection
- help all learners to **understand Anglican traditions**, as well as other Christian traditions found in the UK and around the world

- develop pupils' familiarity with and understanding of the **language and vocabulary of worship**
- **encourage and challenge pupils of all backgrounds** to embark upon their own spiritual journey, recognising the value of prayer, reflection and moments of awe and wonder
- make a **significant contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development**, providing opportunities to reflect, respond and wonder
- **support and enrich learning across the curriculum**, enabling worship to have a wider impact on school life
- provide opportunities to **celebrate and give thanks** for achievements and significant occasions within the school, the local community and the wider world
- **affirm and celebrate shared Christian values and beliefs**, while also recognising and respecting key multi-faith festivals
- **acknowledge the uniqueness of each individual**, celebrate diversity and promote a strong sense of shared values and common humanity within the school, society and the wider world

Leading worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church. Our Vicar is Rev. Janet Heighton at All Saints Church, Rainford. Visitors are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy. Occasionally leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect, inclusion and affirmation.

We have pupil from the Worship Pupil Leadership Team who meet once a half term to promote the Christian distinctiveness of the school. They do this through planning worships; developing the school environments; and work closely with the clergy. Pupils also take part in class worship weekly which provide them with opportunities to plan, lead and deliver worship to their peers and teachers.

Each class leads one class service per year to which parents, friends and family are invited.

Collective Worship is evaluated throughout the year. The positive educational outcomes of collective Worship at Rainford CE Primary School include opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate;
- developing spirituality;
- sharing and experiencing differences;
- developing a culture of learning;
- building a sense of group identity;

- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);
- learning how to behave in a large social group;
- exploring feelings and emotions;
- learning how to perform in front of an audience;
- learning how to respond to a performance;
- making visible the school's leadership;
- developing inner awareness.
- exploring fundamental British Values




Structure of Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for collective worship each day, and we recognise the importance of distinguishing this from other assembly activities. This special time is marked by the use of inspirational music, the lighting of candles, opportunities for stillness, and time to offer thoughts to God, as well as moments for personal reflection.

Christian liturgy is central to our collective worship and includes set openings and dismissals, the Lord's Prayer at each act of worship, references to Bible verses, and shared responses with which the children are familiar. Our pupils are developing an understanding of the concept of the Holy Trinity, and references are made to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in an age-appropriate way.

We encourage a three-stage approach to planning collective worship through the use of our 'windows, mirrors and doors' model, which links explicitly to spirituality. This approach provides a clear framework for nurturing the spirituality of all members of our school community. Through 'windows', 'mirrors' and 'doors', pupils are encouraged to explore themselves and others, reflect on the world around them, and consider how they can go out and make a positive difference.

To support pupils' understanding of spirituality, staff use clear language and symbols, informed by the work of Liz Mills. These symbols and explanations are displayed in classroom reflection areas and used throughout the school to highlight and celebrate evidence of developing spirituality.

Relational Awareness (Andrew Rickett)	Windows, Mirrors and Doors (Liz Mills)	
<p><u>SELF AND OTHERS</u></p> <p>Being a unique person and understanding self-perception. Having an understanding of how empathy, concern, compassion and other values and principles affect relationships.</p>	<p><u>Mirrors</u></p> 	<p><u>MIRRORS - SELF AND OTHERS</u></p> <p>Like looking in a mirror and reflecting... thinking about ourselves and 'how' we (and those around us) feel about things 'now'.</p>
<p><u>WORLD AND BEAUTY</u></p> <p>Perceiving and relating to the physical and creative world through responses to nature and art with the results of human creativity.</p>	<p><u>Windows</u></p> 	<p><u>WINDOWS - WORLD AND BEAUTY</u></p> <p>Like looking through a window ... looking out into the world in new ways - noticing the 'Wows' and 'Ows'!</p> <p>Awe and wonder - the power of questions.</p>
<p><u>BEYOND</u></p> <p>Relating to the transcendental and understanding experiences and meaning outside the 'everyday'. Their place in the greater scheme of things.</p>	<p><u>Doors</u></p> 	<p><u>DOORS - GO OUT AND DO!</u></p> <p>Like opening the door and stepping out ... responding to what you are coming to believe, behave, value and think.</p> <p>Consider performance and actions that you 'vow' to do with a 'pow!'.</p>

Whole school worship takes place four times a week.

Monday

we enjoy worship led by the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher. This will always focus on our value for the half term.

Tuesday

We welcome the church each Tuesday to lead our worship. This worship either focuses on our value or a key event relevant to the Church calendar.

Wednesday

Worship through Song. This is led by Alice Jaeger who is our choir leader. Faith is explored through the joyous experience of collectively joining in song.

Thursday

Class Worship is led by pupils using Picture News to explore topical events/issues in the world.

Friday

This is our Celebration worship. During this special event we share achievement from outside of school; star awards of the week, attendance, birthdays, and other school awards.

Other teachers may lead worship across the week on occasion based on a theme or event relevant or current to their learning or based on a wider school

PSHE theme or current Christian Value. This is always done through a distinctly Anglican lens.

Other Collective Worship Events

The whole school and staff attend church to worship together with parents and friends and celebrate the major Christian festivals throughout the year. These special services are led by the children, and the talk is given by a clergy member or a special visitor. Some examples are below:

HARVEST SERVICE

We hold a special Harvest Service in Church each October, which is led by the pupils of Year 4, and to which parents are invited.

NATIVITY PLAY

This is an important act of worship which is organised by the KS1 classes.

EASTER SERVICE

This is organised by the staff and children in Year 5, accompanied by whole school singing. Parents are invited to attend, and it is held at Church.

END of YEAR SERVICE

Each year, the children from Year 6 attend the 'Leavers' Service' at Liverpool Cathedral for all those children who are leaving Church of England Primary Schools in the Liverpool Diocese.

LDST

Our Trust hold termly Trust-Wide collective worship events which are wonderful occasions for all staff and children across the family of schools to come together. During these events, the Trust's Christian Vision and Values are celebrated. The Trust prayer is shared by all also.

British Values

Our school core Christian values ensure that British Values are implicit and embedded in all that we do. This is part of our long-term plan to prepare our children for living in modern Britain where we value every individual person whether child or adult. We actively promote equality and diversity. It also means that we will promote through discussion, respect for democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths. Evidence for this will come from work in classes as well as the various pupil leadership teams. We will challenge opinions or behaviours in anyone who does not uphold these values.

Monitoring

Monitoring of collective worship is led by the Headteacher and Worship Lead, with regular involvement from governors and clergy, and findings are used to inform future planning and development.

Useful strategies for collecting evidence include:

- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents and governors
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's (and staff's) attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- informal discussions with colleagues

Entitlement

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship. Any such request should be made in writing to the Headteacher. The school will make appropriate arrangements for the supervision of pupils who are withdrawn. Parents are not required to explain their reasons for withdrawal, and the school will seek to work respectfully with families to ensure pupils' well-being and inclusion.

This policy is reviewed on a bi-annual basis, or sooner should there be changes to statutory guidance, the inspection framework or the school's context.

To be reviewed: July 2028

Review Schedule

Policy Author	Emma Shawcross and Louise Thompson
Policy Approver	Governing Body
Current Policy Version	V2.0
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Policy Review Date	May 2028

