



Puttenham
Church of England School



THE GOOD
SHEPHERD TRUST

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Date adopted:	Spring 2023		Last reviewed:	Spring 2025
Review cycle:	Annual		Is this policy statutory?	Yes
Author:	Headteacher		Next review date	Spring 2027

Introduction

Our Mission states that 'Our village school will strive to provide the best possible education for all its children in a caring and happy Christian community.'

Collective worship plays a vital role in achieving our mission. It has the potential to unite the whole membership of the school and to promote a sense of community as well as providing a platform for promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child in our distinctively Christian school. We encourage the children to adopt a sense of self worth and to value every single person both within and outside the school community. Our school values of Love, Hope, Respect, Wisdom and Resilience are woven through our themes.

Statutory Duties

An act of Collective Worship is held daily for full-time Foundation Stage pupils and all Key Stage 1 pupils. Prayers are said in the class on a daily basis. The collective worship is of a Christian character in keeping with the religious character of the school.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the collective worship.

Principles of Collective Worship

When planning and delivering Collective Worship, we are mindful of the guidance set out in the Guildford Diocesan guidelines as follows.

Worship should always:

- be well planned, benefitting from long term plans which have drawn on the expertise of staff, clergy and the local Christian community.
- be thoughtfully delivered in an age appropriate manner. All pupils should feel included and involved, regardless of ability, religion or culture.
- have as its central focus the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- be both an educational and an inspirational experience.
- underpin the Christian values of the school.
- offer opportunities for spiritual development and growth through experiences of stillness, worship and reflection.
- be participatory – inviting pupils to join in with prayer, thought, reflection and silence.

Collective Worship at Puttenham Church of England School

As a Church school, our collective worship has solid foundations in the Christian faith.

Within our worship, we provide opportunities not only to worship God in a variety of ways, but also for personal reflection. Emphasis is given to providing a stimulating view of God and spirituality, which allows each child to make connections between the school community, their family life and the wider world.

Opportunities are taken to provide varied surroundings and a variety of presentations and approaches. The school makes regular use of St. John the Baptist's Parish Church and welcomes different speakers to assemblies and services. The children are invited to play an active part in assemblies, either through responding to questions or by being involved in the actual presentation. We welcome our parents and carers into our collective worship for significant services such as Mother's Day, Candlemas etc as well as the end of term of Christmas, Easter and at the end of year.

Each classroom has a box of resources for their class assemblies that includes candles, or battery operated candles, a cross, a tablecloth and a copy of the Lion Storyteller Bible.

Although within our particular community it is rare for other faiths to be represented, it is appropriate at times for them to be considered in our worship.

Reflective area

The assembly theme is often taken back to the whole 'school reflective area', so the children can further reflect and think about those themes in their own, quiet time. This might be an activity or invitation to prayer that helps to promote reflective thinking whilst underpinned by our school values.

Programme of Worship

A programme of themes is compiled each term, which takes account of the major events in the Church and School years, and the changing seasons as well as exploring other relevant themes. Staff and clergy are invited to contribute ideas for weekly themes. The children are consulted through the School council. Parents are given the assembly themes at the start of term and a copy is placed on the website. and invited to contribute as well as attend some assemblies or acts of worship.

Normal weekly worship and assembly format

- Monday Led by the class teacher
- Tuesday Led by the Rector, Headteacher or teaching staff
- Wednesday Led by the Headteacher
- Thursday Led by the Open The Book team
- Friday Celebration Assembly led by Headteacher

Collective Worship Policy

Collective Worship/Cross and Candles Team

A group of children meet with the Headteacher or the Prayer and Spirituality co-ordinator to contribute to the planning and monitoring of assemblies and worship in school. They take their part in the worship team by taking on duties as 'Cross and Candles' and music for our collective worship.

Evaluation and Monitoring

Evaluation and monitoring of quality and effectiveness of collective worship is assessed through:

- Observation of children and their responses;
- Comments from teachers and helpers who attend worship, and from parents;
- Monitoring by the Headteacher and Local Committee Members;
- External monitoring by Diocese, SIAMS or Ofsted;
- Regular discussions in staff meetings;
- Occasional discussions with those who attend and officiate at collective worship.