



Collective Worship Policy

Adopted by the Governing Body: January 2014

Date Last Reviewed: March 2021

Next Review Date: March 2024

Signed:

(Executive Headteacher)

Signed:

(Chair of Governors)

Collective worship at Long Itchington C of E Academy aims to reflect and nurture the whole ethos of the school. Gathering together to worship develops the feeling of belonging to our community, which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

The daily act of Collective Worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this, and through the general ethos of the school, we seek to promote our School Aims which are as follows:

School Aims Statement

At Long Itchington C of E Academy, we aim to provide a secure and happy environment, based on Christian values, where everyone feels respected and cared for.

We will encourage each child to achieve their potential by supporting them to become independent, motivated and confident learners through a stimulating and challenging curriculum.

We will help children to grow in self-esteem and self-discipline and develop a sense of pride in their learning, their school and the wider community.

Children's Aims Statement

"We live, we laugh, we learn together....."

Living in God's love

Laughing in the joy of Christ's risen life

Learning as we walk together in faith

Aims of Collective Worship

Collective worship is a time where we come together to:

- Provide opportunities for pupils and staff to worship God and deepen their understanding of Christian beliefs
- Share our common aims and values
- Celebrate achievements and special times
- Explore together the world in which we live
- Develop a community spirit
- Build on and foster the close links which exist between the school, the church and the wider community.
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community and wider world
- Foster the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- Enable children to gain insights into ways in which people from all faiths and traditions find meaning and purpose in life.

Christian Values

The following Christian values are important to us and we aim to promote these through the curriculum and during Worship.

- Friendship
- Trust
- Hope
- Perseverance
- Respect
- Peace
- Courage
- Compassion

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'.

We seek to provide a variety of experiences of worship. Acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship or separate acts of worship for children in different age groups or school groups.

Acts of Collective Worship at Long Itchington C of E Academy take into account the children's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the 'Assembly' of pupils. On some occasions, 'Assembly' may precede or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to Worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. moments of silence and reflection; blowing out candles.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Long Itchington C of E Academy we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Headteacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

This right of withdrawal doesn't extend to assemblies.

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective Worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Each half-term, there is a theme for Collective Worship relating to a focused Christian Value.

The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the half-term, the children will have had opportunities to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints.

In addition, worship leaders may develop their worship from themes and events that occur through the curriculum or that are topical or seasonal ie. in response to local or national events.

Each person leading worship is asked to plan his or her act of worship in as much detail as they would any learning activity. Resources for worship are kept in the headteacher's office. In addition, teachers may draw on their own individual resources.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process.

Links with Holy Trinity Church, Long Itchington

The school values greatly its ties with Holy Trinity Church. The school maintains these links with the Church through regular contact with the clergy and visits to the church by the children and staff.

We aim to hold services in the church at least twice a year e.g. Welcome Service, Christmas Carol Service, Easter Service.