

The Downland Federation

Collective Worship Policy



Date of last review: September 2024

Date of next review: September 2025

**The Downland Federation is committed to the safeguarding
and welfare of its students and young people**

Policy for Collective Worship – The Downs School

Status: Non-statutory

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Downs School recognises the importance of promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of its students and its duty to provide opportunities for students to reflect and to worship if they wish.
- 1.2 Collective worship at The Downs School:
 - fulfils the legal obligations set out in the 1988 Education Act
 - is planned and delivered in accordance with the aims and values of the Downs School
 - promotes an understanding of the British Values
 - promotes an understanding and celebration of the diversity of religious traditions found within our community and more widely, whilst recognising the unique role of Christianity in British society
 - promotes a culture of equality, understanding and respect for all members of the school community and wider society
 - provides opportunities for student reflection on their own beliefs and ethical values
 - provides opportunities for Student Voice and encourages active engagement by students
 - provides opportunities to celebrate student achievements and successes and develop the cohesion of the school community
- 1.3 The aims of the school are to develop in young people the ability:
 - to embrace diversity in cultures, beliefs and backgrounds;
 - to support each other to discover new things, take risks and learn from our mistakes;
 - to cultivate the habits of independent thought and curiosity of mind;
 - to be active contributors to the wider and global community.
- 1.4 The Downs School Federation is committed to the safeguarding and welfare of its students and young people.

2. Consultation:

- 2.1 Staff and Governors were consulted on the collective worship policy.

3. Relationship to other policies:

- 3.1 Anti-Bullying, Equal Opportunities, Behaviour and Teaching & Learning policy.

4. Roles & responsibilities of Headteacher, staff and Governors:

- governors to ensure that the legal requirement for a daily act of worship is met;
- collective worship will take place in school during assemblies as per the scheduled weekly programme and it will be delivered by SLT / Heads of Year / Head of R.E. and other teaching staff or external speakers as appropriate, who

should be aware that the majority of acts of collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, as well as through time for reflection in Tutor Time;

- the Head of R.E. is responsible for co-ordinating the collective acts of worship programme and its delivery;
- SLT is aware that parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from acts of collective worship
- Heads of Year are responsible for ensuring that tutors provide opportunities for reflection during morning registration.

5. Monitoring & evaluation:

- 5.1 Head of R.E. monitors and keeps records of the content of assemblies and provides feedback to SLT and the R.E. governor.

Overview

We believe that Collective Worship is an important part of the school day at Basildon CE, Beedon CE and Compton CE Primaries.

In our times of worship, we aim to include some of the following features:

- Praise and prayer
- Reflection
- Celebration
- Thanks
- Forgiveness
- Sharing

Specifically:

- Collective worship (including class worship) will reflect the spiritual development of the school being wholly of a Christian character, Respect and understanding for different beliefs and faiths is encouraged. We also use our collective worship sessions to develop our students understanding of diversity and protected characteristics, we use tools such as No Outsiders to develop our student's knowledge.
- Collective Worship should be in language that pupils can understand.
- Involvement of pupils in acts of Collective Worship will be encouraged.
- Collective Worship takes place daily for all pupils. Parents have the right to withdraw their children if they so wish. Pupils who are withdrawn will be supervised on the premises by a member of staff.
- Collective Worship may be in whole school or in different groupings
- Collective Worship may be led by the Senior Leaders, or other members of staff, local Vicar, members of other Christian Churches and is non-denominational. Members of other faiths may be invited to contribute to acts of worship
- Parents will be invited to join other acts of Collective Worship within the school such as Sharing Assemblies and Services outside the school.
- Collective Worship will be used to link in with other whole school themes.
- All members of staff are expected to attend collective worship as regularly as possible.

Key Christian Texts Within a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School

We should expect that our pupils become familiar with some of the great statements of Christian belief and worship especially the life and teachings of Jesus Christ including:

- The Lord's prayer
- Jesus' summary of the law (Matthew 22:34-40)
- The Ten Commandments
- Some traditional hymns as well as more recent examples
- The Church Calendar, Festivals, Saints Days

Related Policies

- Spiritual Development
- Mission Statement
- School Ethos – Instrument of Government

- School Improvement Plan

Policy for Collective Worship –Basildon, Beedon and Compton CE School

1. Purpose and Aims of the Policy:

1.1 The aims of our school as described in each school's vision. As a federation of schools, we aim to:

- provide an excellent education for all pupils.
- develop everybody's unique personality, abilities and talents through creative learning experiences.
- encourage confidence, independence and self-belief so that all individuals can flourish and reach their maximum potential.
- embed within the school a culture and values
- instil a lifelong love of learning with the ability and desire to make God's world a better place.

2. Introduction

2.1 A daily act of worship is central to the life of our school. Worship offers the children and other in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian ethos. It reflects our mission statement and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

2.2 Our collective worship provides the pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- worship God.
- experience a variety of styles of worship.
- celebrate:
 - Christian festivals.
 - school values.
 - British values.
 - Diversity and protected characteristics
 - achievements.
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer.
- develop a reflective approach to life and reflect on Christian values
- develop as a community based in Christian values.
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship.
- feel safe and affirmed.

2.3 At times worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth.
- consider moral issues in a Christian context.
- Enhance social understanding.
- explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage.

3. The Pattern of Collective Worship

- 3.1 Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings in the school hall, classrooms, our local church and on occasions outside.
- 3.2 We follow the seasons of the Church year and within these significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost and other days such as Candlemas are celebrated occasionally.
- 3.3 Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

4. Leading worship

- 4.1 Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church Community Children are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the wider area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths. Children are involved in planning and leading their own worship. Older children are invited to join our Worship Committee.

5. Planning Acts of Collective Worship

- 5.1 Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in Worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme, and the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils. Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as dance and drama alongside traditional elements of worship such as:
 - lighting a candle.
 - reading the bible.
 - song.
 - reflection.
- 5.2 Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invite but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.
- 5.3 Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection. and our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

6. A legal note

- 6.1 By law, Collective Worship must:
 - be provided for every child every day.
 - reflect the school's Trust Deed.
- 6.2 Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their

backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

- 6.3 Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the Headteacher.

