



# Denver VC Primary School Collective Worship Policy

## Introduction

As a church school, our values are based on Christian principles, and we have an ethos of hard work and mutual respect.

Our shared Christian vision seeks to recognise whatever is good in each individual through the way we Discover, Value, Celebrate and Praise each other.



Let your light shine (Matthew 5:16)

Our vision is lived out through our exploration of our Christian values: thankfulness, peace, wisdom, hope, tolerance, perseverance, friendship, generosity, justice, compassion, forgiveness and love.

**We aim to** develop the whole school community, promoting the academic, social, emotional, physical, spiritual, and aesthetic aspects of the individual.

This is the starting point of all our policy writing so that we can encourage all members of our community to 'Let their light shine' surrounded by a safe, enabling and encouraging environment.

<b>Formally adopted by the Governing Board of:-</b>	<b>Denver VC Primary School</b>
<b>On:-</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026</b>
<b>Chair of Governors:-</b>	<b>Carole Reich</b>
<b>Last updated:-</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> May 2023</b>

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

### **Introduction**

This policy outlines the delivery, organisation and management of Collective Worship at Denver VC Primary School. It has been drawn up in accordance with the legal requirements for Collective Worship.

### **Aims for Collective Worship**

- To provide an opportunity to reflect on the nature of God
- To promote the shared Christian values and common ethos of the school
- To foster a sense of awe and wonder
- To explore the spiritual dimension
- To help children explore their own beliefs and those of others
- To provide children with opportunities for prayer and worship

### **Planning for Collective Worship**

Collective worship is invitational, inclusive, inspirational and engaging. The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered carefully to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. We follow a rolling programme of core Christian values which is embedded in Bible stories and theology. This supports the aims of the school and values which are shared by the community, further enriched by our Anglican foundation. Our programme is flexible to allow the inclusion of special occasions, as well as current and topical issues.

Each act of collective worship will include time for thinking, sharing, listening and reflecting. We consider the elements to be the basic ingredients of Anglican acts of worship.

We use the four-part model of 'Gathering, Engaging, Responding and Sending' in our collective worship, with liturgical greetings.

We follow a rolling programme of 12 core Christian values (thankfulness, peace, wisdom, hope, tolerance, perseverance, friendship, generosity, love, compassion, forgiveness and justice) which are the foundation of our school ethos. Each half term, we focus on one of these Christian values explicitly through Collective Worship, but also throughout our curriculum. Children will have regular opportunities to reflect on each value and to develop an understanding of each value in action. We celebrate children who demonstrate our vision of children letting their light shine in our class reflection areas, floor books and in our celebration worship.

We have close links with St Mary's Church in Denver and special services are held in the church for key Christian festivals and throughout the year in an age-appropriate way.

Every member of the teaching staff, governors and regular visitors are involved in leading acts of worship. Visitors from other denominations, charitable organisations and the wider community will also be invited to be part of worship as appropriate. Such visitors will follow the school's guidance within our worship policy and details of the current theme for worship.

### **The Approach to Collective Worship**

At Denver VC Primary we draw upon the experience of staff, visiting members of local churches and pupils. We aim to provide a variety of experiences to enable pupils to reflect on things which we as a school believe are important. These may include:

- Stories
- Drama/Mime
- Dance
- Poetry
- Music
- Art
- Personal experience

We acknowledge that our school community is not worshipping in the same sense as a local church. However, we provide daily acts of worship which we believe help children understand some of the features of worship in a believing community, for example:

- Praise
- Thanks
- Celebrations
- Sharing

Wherever possible, pupils are given opportunities to participate and contribute to collective worship. The law requires us to provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God as part of our collective Worship. This time may involve reflection, spoken prayers, big questions and spiritual development but can also be a time for each pupil and adult present to be quiet and think about what they have seen and heard, thus providing an opportunity for each to worship God if they wish to do so.

### **Organisation**

Whole school collective worship is held four days a week in the hall between 2.55pm and 3.20pm. Class worship is held every Thursday, with the focus alternating between wellbeing and key topical questions through Picture News.

To make the space special, a candle is lit to focus the children. A wooden cross is also used as a focal point. Music will be played during entrance and exit.

The school recognises that issues arising from the day-to-day events of school life as well as current affairs will need to be addressed as appropriate.

Children are expected to walk in and out of the hall quietly in their class groups.

### **Evaluating Collective Worship**

The foundation governors have responsibility for monitoring the quality of collective worship. Pupils will also be involved in evaluating collective worship through monitoring activities using our Worship Ambassadors and 'Child of the Day' children.

### **Withdrawal**

Parents may ask for their children to be withdrawn from RE and Collective Worship in accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act and the 1996 Education Act. Reasons for withdrawal do not have to be given and withdrawal will be acted upon immediately.

Parents are asked to contact the Headteacher if they wish to exercise their right to withdraw. Arrangements for supervision will be made, although additional educational provision will not be provided.