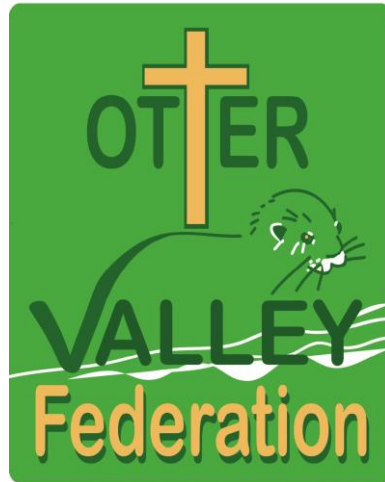


# Believing and Achieving Together to be the Best We Can Be



*We aim to reflect God's love, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."  
John 10:10*

## OTTER VALLEY FEDERATION

### Collective Worship Policy

Date approved by Lead Governor for Parents and Christian Community: November 2018

Next review date (biannual)

**March 2026**

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

At the heart of our schools lies a deep commitment to worship which reflects the intention of the schools' Trust Deeds to represent Christ in our communities.

### **1. Aim**

At our schools, our daily Acts of Worship are integral parts of school life. The aim of the collective worship policy is to provide opportunities for pupils and adults to:

- Worship God
- Embed the vision and core values of our schools within the whole life of the school, Acts of Worship and within our community life;
- Be inspired to reflect on their own lives and the world around them and also become advocates for change;
- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs;
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values;
- Consider spiritual and moral issues;
- Understand the value and the use of prayer and reflection;
- Respond to the worship offered.
- Reflect the Anglican foundation of our schools

In addition our broader aims include:

- Extend speaking and listening skills by learning how to speak, perform and share opinions in front of an audience;
- Listen closely to others;
- Share achievements, special occasions, happy and sorrowful experiences;
- Share and experience difficulties.

We aim for pupils and adults to be able to explain how collective worship can influence their lives, both in and out of school. Our programme of collective worship is planned in such a way that the pupils can take a considerable lead and the local church community are actively involved.

### **2. Statutory Duty of School**

All maintained church schools are required to provide a daily act of collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been **withdrawn by their parents**). This is usually provided within a daily act of worship.

The Executive Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils.

Collective worship in Foundation Schools with a religious character and voluntary schools will be in accordance with the school's Trust Deed. Where provision is not made by a Trust Deed, the worship should be in accordance with the beliefs of the religion or denomination specified for the school.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship, following a discussion with the Head of School and written confirmation to the governors.

### **3. Acts of Worship (Collective Worship)**

Should be activities that:

- Incorporate the acknowledgement of weakness before God; seek God's guidance; and give thanks for goodness in the context of the schools' vision and values.
- The school vision and values should create the structure for all Acts of Worship.
- Are educational and spiritually enhancing, underpinning the moral education being given to children.
- Foster a sense of fellowship by bringing children together.
- Offer children the opportunity to worship and create an atmosphere in which those who wish to worship can do so.
- Encourage a reflective approach to life and give time for thinking and reflecting.
- Increase sensitivity so that pupils are more aware of the search for meaning in the face of life's mysteries and problems.
- Introduce children to aspects of religious worship and faith in an open and honest atmosphere.
- Encourage children to express their responses in a variety of ways and give reflection on the importance of a system of personal belief.
- Encourage children to recognise the place of a Christian faith in the life of people, particularly in the context of a church school.
- Help children to develop a sense of awe, curiosity, wonder and mystery.
- Inspire children and adults to be advocates for change in their own lives and with wider issues.
- Encourage children to be creative, questioning and imaginative, within a Christian framework. Also recognise the importance of experience, personal values and respect for the beliefs of others.
- Should facilitate spiritual growth, enabling children to become true to themselves and to others.

### **4. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

- Monitoring takes place through recording, which includes pupil, staff and governors' evaluative comments.
- The school will review this policy bi-annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

### Collective Worship at Feniton School

**School Worship at Feniton is characterised by our vision and HEART values (hope, empathy, achievement, reflection and thankfulness) and feelings including:**

- |                |                |                            |
|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| * wonder / awe | * reverence    | * new beginnings           |
| * achievement  | * hope         | * selflessness / sacrifice |
| * forgiveness  | * dedication   | * love                     |
| * reflection   | * thankfulness | * compassion               |

#### **Our Acts of Worship seek to:**

- Affirm some value of ultimate worth, which for some, will be God.
- Actively involve the children.
- Inspire children and adults to reflect on how they can be advocates for change in their on lives and with wider issues.
- Celebrate in songs, hymns, readings and drama etc.
- Respond collectively and individually through statements of belief, prayer, silence or reflection.

The Feniton School Acts of Worship, therefore, seek to provide all those engaged in the life of the school with the opportunity to enjoy these spiritual opportunities by coming together to share such characteristics, in a Christian manner. The format will be a broad range of liturgical styles recognised by the Church of England. Collective Worship is planned in blocks of terms and half terms, it is essential to have some flexibility to respond to particular and immediate situations which are relevant and which affect children directly. The Head of School and RE Co-ordinator supervise and evaluate the Act of Worship Programme, monitored by the governors.

An Act of Worship is recognised as a focal point in the school for all our concerns and aspirations expressed collectively. It is a daily act, with a variety of settings, which includes whole school and class provision.

The themes presented consider the age and interests of the children. They follow the school's HEART core values and include:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| * the broad traditions of Christian belief | * knowledge of the Christian year                           |
| * the work of the church today             | * an appreciation and wonder of the world in which we live  |
| * love and consideration of others         | * the example of great lives given in the service of others |

Such themes are led by the teachers and presented by the children in speech, music, art, and drama.

On occasions and when appropriate, the school makes use of the knowledge from the other cultures and faiths within the frame of a “broadly Christian” tradition – such an approach should have regard to the pupils, community and local church. Specific links may be made with our partner school in the Solomon Islands.

External speakers may be invited and the teacher will need to have regard to the specific training and experience of such speakers and appropriateness for children of primary age. The local clergy are involved weekly throughout the year in Acts of Collective Worship.

### **Time Allocation / Staffing**

As far as possible, all staff are required to participate in School Acts of Worship.

School Acts of Worship last 15 minutes per day and are currently as follows:

- Monday 10.15-10.30 - Whole school Act of Worship led by the Headteacher or visiting adults.
- Tuesday 10.15-10.30 - Individual class-based Acts of Worship.
- Wednesday 10.15-10.30 – Whole school Act of Worship led by a visiting member of the clergy.
- Thursday – 10.15-10.30 - Worship in Song.
- Friday – 2.45 -3.10 – Celebration Act of Worship to reflect upon the week or term and celebrate successes together.

### **Guidelines**

- a. The Act of Worship should be characterised by a sense of joy, learning and renewal.
- b. Music, hymns, choral speaking, prayer, dance and drama and appropriate readings from the Bible may be chosen by the teacher in consultation with the children and relevant co-ordinator.
- c. Use of objects with particular religious significance (candles, flowers, religious symbols, etc) should be introduced with explanation.

### **Presentations should, therefore,**

- Be set with an appropriate atmosphere leading towards an important event (e.g candle lighting / prayer)
- Start with a clear worship focus/objective at the outset.
- Ensure that speech is clear – everyone can hear and see.
- Seek everyone’s active engagement by extending the child’s knowledge, attitudes and skills. Thinking is challenged and there is opportunity for reflection based on the clearly stated focus/objective.
- Provide variety through music, dance, drama.
- Draw a clear conclusion relating to the original focus/objective.

This important area of the school life is linked with the school Religious Education Programme (see scheme of work: RE). Further information for this policy may be derived from the publications above.

### **Collective Worship at Tipton St John School**

Collective Worship at Tipton St John seeks to engage all participants in creative ways. Bible teaching is linked wherever possible to the Vision and HEART Values of our Federation, which form the basis of our Collective Worship structure throughout the year.

## **Hope Empathy Achievement Reflection Thankfulness**

We aim to involve all of our school community as far as possible in our Collective Worship. We seek to encourage strong worship links between the school and the community, through making use of the church on a weekly basis, and for specific events linked to the school and church calendars; e.g. Christingle, Easter, Christmas, etc.

We also believe it is essential to have the flexibility to respond to particular and immediate situations which are relevant and which affect children directly. Such events can create a context and an opportunity to address difficult questions. At other times it may be necessary to reschedule a theme in order to address specific issues arising within the life of the school.

### **Our Acts of Worship/Collective Worship seek to:**

- Focus upon that which is greater than our individual selves – for many this will be God.
- Celebrate in songs, hymns, readings and drama etc.
- Respond collectively and individually through statements of belief, prayer, silence or reflection.

The Acts of Worship, while maintaining a Christian/Anglican integrity, will introduce children to a range of styles and formats of worship and response. Over the course of the year, children will experience worship through:

- Poetry
- Drama
- Art
- Story-telling
- Prayers (original and published)
- Bible readings
- Dance
- Music (background and singing)
- Displays
- Focal points – such as candles, objects etc.

At Tipton St John, it is believed that it is important to allow children to grasp the sense of 'big story' within the Bible. Henceforth, the Collective Worship cycle involves a bi/tri-annual focus year where the bible overview is given through Collective Worship. In other years, Collective Worship follows a more themed approach, with attention paid to elements of British Values, School Values, Key Christian figures in history etc.

It is expected that Collective Worship will be carefully planned to communicate with and engage all ages and abilities. Collective Worship should be enjoyable and valued by children, with frequent opportunities for children to take part in planning and leading elements of worship.

Collective Worship should include the following:

- An appropriate atmosphere and an engaging start
- Opportunity for children to participate (reading, drama, activity, prayer, etc)
- Corporate worship (often through singing)
- A response leading into action
- A time of reflection with an opportunity for prayer

### **Time Allocation / Staffing**

All staff, including Teaching Assistants, are generally present during Collective Worship. Teachers will lead Acts of Worship on a weekly rota, according to the program. Collective Worship is expected to last 15-20mins.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Monday</b>	1 – 1.20	In Class
<b>Tuesday</b>	1-1.20	<b>Singing</b> In Willow Class
<b>Wednesday</b>	1 – 1.20	Village hall
<b>Thursday</b>	9.10 - 9.40	Church – led by Rev Mark Ward
<b>Friday</b>	1-1.20	Village hall

Children are involved in planning and leading part or all of an Act of Worship on a regular basis.

### **Incidentals:**

Whilst Collective Worship is planned and scheduled throughout the school week, other Collective Worship may well take place on an incidental level throughout the school day. A prayer of thanks is commonly said before lunch, sometimes by a teacher, but also by children if they wish. Children may also be encouraged to pray or to simply reflect at other times in the day, for example after discussing an event in the news.

### **Monitoring**

The Executive Headteacher, Head of School and RE Co-ordinator supervise and evaluate the Act of Worship Program, monitored by the governors. Children are also involved in monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship through the weekly use of individual pupil reflection books, and pupil conferencing with the RE coordinator.