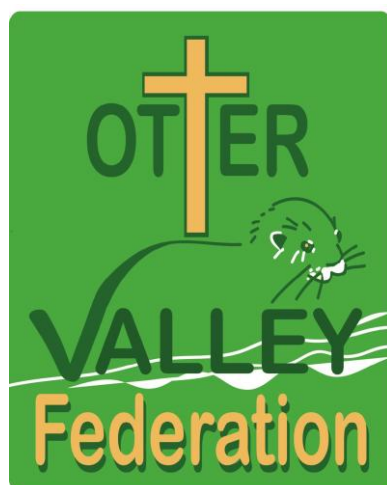


Believing and Achieving Together to be the Best We Can Be



*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

Reviewed	June 2026
Next review date (biannual)	June 2028

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

At the heart of our schools lies a deep commitment to worship which reflects the intention of the schools' 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are required to provide a daily act of collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been **withdrawn by their parents**).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.
- Actively involve the children.
- Inspire children and adults to reflect on how they can be advocates for change in their own lives and with wider issues.
- Celebrate in songs, hymns, readings and drama etc.
- Respond collectively and individually through statements of belief, prayer, silence and reflection.
- 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, developing their spirituality within a Christian framework.
- Recognise the importance of experience, personal values and respect for the beliefs of others.
- Should facilitate spiritual growth, enabling children to develop a deeper understanding of themselves, others, the world around them and beyond.

5. Planning

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 Collective 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
- * the work of the church today
- * love and consideration of others
- * knowledge of the Christian year
- * an appreciation and wonder of the world in which we live
- * 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.

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:

Feniton

Day	Time	Location
Monday	10.15-10.30am	Whole School led by HoS or visiting clergy
Tuesday	3.05 – 3.20pm	Whole School led by HoS / Open the Book
Wednesday	Choice of teacher	Picture News – class based
Thursday	3.05 – 3.20pm	Sung Worship
Friday	3.00 – 3.20pm	Celebration Act of Worship

Tipton St John

Day	Time	Location
Monday	1 – 1.20	Sung Worship
Tuesday	1-1.20	Picture News – class based
Wednesday	1 – 1.20	Whole School led by HoS
Thursday	9.10 - 9.40	Church – led by Rev Mark Ward
Friday	1-1.20	Celebration Act of Worship

Structure of Collective Worship

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

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 leads supervise and evaluate the Collective 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 or whole class books and pupil conferencing.