



"Let your light shine!"

Collective Worship Policy

Member of staff responsible: Headteacher

Governing body committee responsible: Curriculum

Reviewed: Annually

Headteacher's signature: Martin Gosling

Chair of Governor's signature: Jill Dean

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Rationale and Ethos

Our school vision 'Let Your Light Shine' is rooted in the teachings of Jesus in the 'Sermon on the Mount' from the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 5 verses 1 to 16. It encourages our children to show the world how wonderful they are, in both the good character and values they display and in their unique qualities and talents. It acknowledges that the strength in our school community is in understanding and nurturing what makes the children, staff and parents unique and in developing individual success. We are all successful in different ways: some of us are brilliant writers, some are superb mathematicians, some are super scientists, and some are fantastic musicians, artists, designers, historians, geographers, sports people, and dancers. But the most important thing is that we know that each and every one of us has something special to offer our community and our world; that by bringing our individual successes and talents together we can work as one for a brighter future. Our role is to enable our pupils and our community to shine their amazing light to the world so we can all 'see the good things' they do.

At Frieth CEC School we embrace the uniqueness of everybody and are inclusive of all. Our values of respect, responsibility, resilience, honesty, kindness and creativity guide all that we do and we seek to develop these characteristics in all our pupils, preparing them to be reflective and responsible members of society who let their light shine. As a Church of England school, we believe that learning about the Christian faith and being involved in Christian worship can be a significant part in achieving this aim. We therefore give a high priority to collective worship in the school, alongside RE and other opportunities to learn about the beliefs and practice of Christianity.

Our Collective Worship is an expression of the school reflects the diverse religious backgrounds of children in the school, some of whom are regular church goers, others have little or no Christian framework outside school, and some are members of other religions. Collective Worship provides an opportunity to learn about and praise God, to think about how we respect and show worth to ourselves, to others and to God. It is participatory and reflective, providing a different focus from the other parts of the learning experience and school day. In general, our Collective Worship is based on Bible stories, teaching values, or exploring of current topics and reflects the special place accorded to Jesus Christ in the Christian faith.

The Legal Requirements

The Education Reform Act (1988) requires that all registered pupils take part in a daily act of collective worship (although parents have the right to withdraw their children if they so wish). As a Church of England Aided School, the governing body determines the nature of collective worship after consultation with the Headteacher in accordance with the Trust Deed, the legal document setting out the basis on which the school was founded. This means that it reflects the traditions of the Church of England. We use the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning and we reflect upon Christian symbols and their use in worship. We observe the cycle of the Anglican year, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost, which provides a framework for a changing pattern of school worship.

Collective worship may take place at any time in the school day, and may be a single gathering for all pupils, or separate assemblies for smaller groups. The Education Reform Act (1988) states that;

'as a rule, all acts of collective worship should take place on the school premises... County and controlled schools which also wish to hold acts of collective worship off the school premises may do so, provided they are in addition to the daily statutory act of collective worship which must still be held on school premises.'

Aims of Collective Worship

Our aim is to provide collective worship that is Inclusive, Invitational and Inspirational enabling all members of the school to participate with honesty and freedom. Collective worship at Frieth CEC School aims to provide daily opportunities for children to:

- Develop an awareness of the presence of God in everyday life
- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues
- Develop an appreciation of the special relationship between God and people, expressed in the life of Jesus and celebrated in worship
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God
- Develop an experience of being active members of a caring community by fostering an atmosphere of love, security and kindness
- Explore and share their own beliefs and those of others
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- Consider the value of religious belief, prayer and worship in all cultures and religions of the world
- Think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer and reflection
- Appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them
- Re-affirm, interpret and put into practice the values of the school
- Celebrate and recognise the achievements of members of the school community and wider community
- Experience regular times when they can be receptive to their own inner worlds of thoughts, feelings and imaginings, and to reflect on them
- Experience the deepest concerns of their own spirits in reflection or offer them up in worship and prayer, if they wish to do so

(adapted from the NCC Discussion paper 4/93 and Collective Worship in Church of England Schools Inclusive Invitational Inspiring)

Planning for worship

Collective worship takes place each day. It is led by our Worship Leaders from our Collective Worship Council, Reverend Andy Storch, teaching staff and children. Before each collective worship assembly, a member of the Collective Worship Council leads a call to worship.

Day	Collective Worship	Lead
Monday 10:00am	Come and Praise Assembly	Teachers
Tuesday 10:00am	School Vision and Values	Rev Andy/ Collective Worship Council
Wednesday	Daily worship	Class Teachers and Pupils in class
Thursday	Bible Stories	Class Teacher
Friday 2:45pm	Let Your Light Shine!	Year 6 Pupils

On some occasions, we respond to current events as needs are perceived and celebrate festivals from other cultures and religions as well as those of the Christian faith.

Each of our values is rooted in theology and key Bible stories have been chosen to represent these. The children will have the opportunity to share and reflect on those stories each year throughout their time with us. We hold a 'Christian Copyright Licence' to cover use of resources.

Our worship leaders meet each week to plan collective worship. The worship leaders have responded to the views and ideas shared by their peers. They have developed a collective worship program that reflects our school vision and concepts which fascinate and inspire their peers.

The aim of the 'Let Your Light Shine!' assembly is to celebrate the children's achievements, thus highlighting where they have 'let their light shine' as individuals, groups or classes, outside of the school/classroom or within it and to recognise children demonstrating our school values.

'Class Assemblies' may encourage reflection on a variety of themes such as current issues, a specific event or celebration, or the celebration of curriculum work. When possible, parents and governors are invited to attend these.

The school keeps close links with the local church. As well as celebrating major events in the Christian calendar in the church, each term ends with a service in the church supported by a member of local clergy. Pupils are responsible for leading each of these services.

As a church school we have a close connection with the local worshipping community, and we enjoy mutual support and encouragement. Our local clergy regularly lead assembly and collective worship, and we have many other regular Christian visitors, as well as visitors from other faith groups and from different charities.

Forest Church Collective Worship

One a month we hold a Forest Church Collective Worship for the whole school, led by Reverend Sue Morton. Meeting in a special outdoor area of our Forest School, the children and staff are invited to step away from the busyness of the school day and to spend some time in God's Creation (in all weathers!). Often using leaves, grass, twigs or other natural objects around us, after a Bible reading, everyone is invited to pause and reflect on a theme, followed by a prayer and a chorus of a well-known hymn or song. This space offers refreshment and the opportunity to notice how God's light is shining in our world.

Right to Withdrawal from RE and Collective Worship

Pupils may be withdrawn from RE or part of RE by a parent or guardian (or withdrawing themselves if they are aged 18 or over) in accordance with Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998; teachers can also exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE on the grounds that they wish to provide their own RE. This provision will be the parents' responsibility. This right of withdrawal exists for all pupils in all types of school, including schools with and without a religious designation. Students aged 18 or over have the right to withdraw themselves from RE. Parents also have the right to withdraw their child from part of RE and can do so without giving any explanation.

Teachers also have the right to withdraw from the teaching of RE. However, this does not apply to teachers who have been specifically employed to teach or lead RE. If a teacher wishes to withdraw from the teaching of RE, a letter requesting this must be submitted to the head of the school and its chair of governors. If a teacher withdraws from the teaching of RE, the school must still make provisions for the pupils to receive their entitlement to RE.

When a request to withdraw is received by a school, the request should be granted without delay. The school may offer to speak with the parent to try to understand the basis for the withdrawal but only after the request has been granted. The school must make clear that the parent's right to withdraw their child has been granted and that parents are not required to give reasons for their request.

Monitoring and Co-ordination of Worship

The Headteacher and SLT are responsible for the implementation, co-ordination and monitoring of collective worship, reporting to the governing body on these matters. Appropriate training is held for both staff and governors. Collective Worship will also be monitored by the designated governor, who will talk with children. Feedback will be given to the Governing Body and SLT.

This policy should be read in conjunction with our policies for Religious Education and Spiritual Development.