

# Oakham Church of England Primary and The Parks School

**Passion, Fellowship, Pride, Humility, Perseverance, Hope, Purpose  
& Thankfulness**



## **Collective Worship Policy**

<b>Date</b>	<b>March 2019</b>
<b>Approved by Executive Headteacher</b>	<b>Steve Cox</b>
<b>Approved by Chair of Governors</b>	<b>Nick Cooper</b>
<b>Review Date</b>	<b>March 2021</b>

“In loving Christian **Fellowship** we equip everyone to have a **Passion** for life and learning. To have **Pride** in our local community and be **Thankful** for all the parts which make us whole. Building **Hope** and resilience to **Persevere** and develop a sense of **Humility** and **Purpose** in our lives.” Our Vision is at the forefront of our thinking and decision making when writing, reviewing and updating all school procedures and policies.

## 1. Introduction

1.1 Collective worship is for all pupils and occurs daily at Oakham Church of England Primary (Controlled) School and The Parks School. It either forms a small part of the school or its entirety. Collective worship has the potential to unite all the children in the school and therefore develop a sense of fellowship and community. Collective worship is part of promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child. It is a good time to celebrate the worth and value of every single person in the school community.

1.2 During collective worship at our school we are working towards creating experiences which include all the children in the school; those who adopt a religious life-stance and those who do not. These experiences should be educational and lead the child to be reflective, and to develop a tolerance towards the lifestyle of others.

1.3 A broad and flexible approach should be adopted as with any other learning activity in the school.

## 2. Statutory Requirements

2.1 Collective worship at Oakham Church of England Primary School and The Parks School complies with legal requirements. The law states that “Collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character which means that it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief.” However, it is fundamental that collective worship be flexible enough to encompass the age, aptitude and background of all the children at the school. Therefore an act of worship which is ‘broadly Christian’ need not contain Christian material only (DFE 34).

2.2 Examples such as God, justice, love, peace, good, evil, greed, poverty, charity, morality, tolerance, co-operation, selfishness, war and prejudice are broadly Christian beliefs which are also inclusive to other major world faiths. Thus, if a broad and flexible approach is adopted, collective worship will not affect the integrity of anyone taking part, but may develop the spiritual awareness of every individual. The school is following a cycle of themes adapted in liaison with the clergy of All Saints’ Church, and follows the Anglican calendar, major Christian festivals in addition to teaching on the trinity, Bible characters and also our school values of **Fellowship**, **Humility**, **Hope**, **Thankfulness**, **Passion**, **Pride**, **Perseverance**, and **Purpose**.

## 3. Collective Worship

3.1 Collective worship is a gathering of a part of, or all of the school.

3.2 Each daily worship within school aims to be inclusive, curricular and educational where all pupils are capable of responding and reflecting, it should contribute to the education of all pupils.

3.3 Collective worship is a time when the individual can be celebrated for his or her social and academic achievements, and a time to foster the positive values held at the school, the local community and wider world.

3.4 Time is given at the end of collective worship when we deal with administrative issues and other announcements about school life which keeps children informed about what is going on.

## 4. Implementation

4.1 All teachers currently take an active role in leading worship, and visitors are encouraged. A variety of pupil led worship is actively encouraged.

4.2 We follow a theme each week, and also attend All Saints' Church for Harvest, Christmas and Easter, and to celebrate the end of the school year; services which are open to parents and carers.

## **5. Content**

5.1 Whole school worship takes place on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Monday worship is often led by our local clergy from All Saints' Church and Wednesday worship is often class-led; to which parents are invited. Friday worship is led by the Head teacher or Assistant Head teacher; these are celebration worship to which parents are welcome.

5.2 Key Stage two children meet together for worship on a Tuesday, and KS1/FS meet together on a Thursday; this allows age- appropriate discussion and reflection on the theme for the week, thinking back to the teaching from the clergy and how this can be relevant or lived out in their own lives.

5.3 Each class has a class worship once a week: this allows time for discussion, questions and ideas to be shared that are relevant to the theme and how it is applicable to the children, their lives and families.

5.4 A variety of visitors are also welcomed into school.

5.5 Governors are welcome to all collective worship and church services as a part of our continual monitoring and evaluation.

5.6 Collective Worship is co-ordinated by the R.E. Co-ordinator and supported by the Leadership Team.

5.7 The impact and effectiveness of collective worship is discussed and evidenced through a 'Reflections of Collective Worship' Book. This allows a class each week to respond to their thoughts about the theme focused on and gives extra time for thought, discussion and reflection.

## **6. Assessment and Evaluation.**

6.1 The outcomes of collective worship at the school are evaluated through pupil's feedback, through the Reflections of Collective Worship book, Governor monitoring forms and 'snack and chat' with SLT.

## **7. Withdrawal of Pupils from Collective Worship.**

7.1 The main aim of collective worship is for it to be meaningful and relevant for all pupils, for those with or without a faith background. It is therefore hoped that few parents will feel the need to withdraw their child from collective worship.

7.2 Parents have been able to withdraw their children from collective worship since the 1944 Education Act and no recent legislation has affected this right. It is most recently confirmed in Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The government guidance document which remains current in the case of collective worship is **Circular 1/94: Religious Education and Collective Worship.**

7.3 Parents wishing to withdraw their child from all or part of collective worship can do so by contacting the Head Teacher in writing.

## **8. Review and Development.**

8.1 This policy will be reviewed annually and any provision for resources taken into account in the SDP.