

Castle Camps C. of E. (V.C.) Primary School



Policy for Collective Worship

**Date Approved by the Governing Body: 22nd
September 2025
Date for Review: September 2026**

Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes, linked with the school's aims;
- to teach children how to worship.

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We encourage everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school and make reference to the beliefs of others – all faiths and none..

2.3 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school.

3.2 We conduct Collective in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that Collective Worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and invite children to participate in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects from the worship tabled that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

3.3 Pupils are encourage to lead sections of our Collective Worship. Prayers are also said before lunch and at the end of the day. Pupils learn and say together from memory The Lord's Prayer, Lunchtime Prayer and Home time prayer.

3.4 The head teacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies. Local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them regularly. Pupils are also invited to lead assemblies, based on the theme for the week/value for the month.

3.5 We use a range of resources alongside the Ely Diocesan Board of Education plans and thematic units for collective worship which are based on the traditions of the Christian faith – this includes reflection of the festivals and events of the Christian calendar.

Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

3.6 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes.

Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

Castle Camps Church of England Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

3.7 We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

3.8 We welcome parents' attendance at our family services. These are held at least termly at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year. They take place in All Saints Church or in the school hall.

3.9 Year 6 pupils have an active role in helping to organise assembly: we have a Collective Worship file which pupils update and monitor, music for reflection monitors (choose music and work the CD player!).

3.10 The Headteacher manages the timetables and planning of themes at the beginning of each term, ensuring breadth, balance, continuity and coverage and to ensure each assembly is different in content but based on the theme for the week/value for the half term. Our plans are published on the school website.

3.11 A period of quiet reflection is included in all assemblies; a candle is usually lit.

3.12 Each Classroom has a Reflection Corner and provides opportunities for children to extend their prayer and thought processes.

4 Elements of Worship

- Songs, Music
- Prayer
- Reflection and contemplation
- Individual and group activity
- Bible readings
- Artefacts
- Discussion, speech and silence
- Use of the senses
- Other visual stimulus e.g. use of ICT

5 Right of withdrawal

5.1 We encourage all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this.

This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

6 Monitoring and review

6.1 It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the head teacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship and supports the school with all issues relating to SIAMS.



A Guide to Conducting Collective Worship

- Children to be led in by class teacher in silence.
- Music playing on entry to the hall (hall monitors to organise).
- Welcome & response - changes on a half termly basis)
- Introduce the Collective Worship Theme.
- Story/Expand upon the theme.
- Sing (all standing/sitting at the same time in silence).
- Light candle (matches to be kept in Head's Office).
- Reflection (close eyes or look at the candle).
- Prayer (close eyes or look at the candle).