

Federation of Priddy and St. Lawrence's

Collective Worship Policy



Ratification

Role	Name	Signature	Date
Chair of Governors	Tim Clements		February 2024
Head Teacher	Sharon Foxall		February 2024

Review

Review Cycle	Date of Current Policy	Author(s) of Current Policy	Review Date
Two years	2024 - 2026	Sarah Conolly	February 2026

Context

The Federation of Priddy and St Lawrence's consists of two village schools. St Lawrence's C of E Primary School (Voluntary controlled) consists of Saplings Pre-School, Reception and Key Stage 1. Priddy School (Community school), consists of Key Stage 2.

The family atmosphere of our two village schools allows us to know each child very well and we aim to give them a sense of belonging as well as valuable experience of being part of a community. We have good links with both village churches, with members of the church being regular visitors to our schools.

Our School Vision

**“Working together to be the best we can be.”
Compassion, Courage and Perseverance.**

These Christian values are rooted in the Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15: 3-7)
“Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.”

Our Christian Values of Compassion, Courage and Perseverance rooted in the parable of the Lost Sheep underpins our school life and vision, “Working together to be the best we can be”. Like the sheep within the Parable, every member of the school and surrounding community is valued and we pride ourselves on being an inclusive and nurturing community.

Everyone can achieve it and there are opportunities for all. Relationships are conducted with the school vision at the forefront. Like a good shepherd, all members of the school community demonstrate care and compassion to the flock. Everyone is important and respected. This is underlined by our school rules, Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe.

Our vision and values are at the core of everything we do. It is our belief that the commitment and enthusiasm of the staff in both enjoying and supporting our children to realize this aim is key. If we have high expectations the children will aspire to great things whatever their gifts, academically, physically and spiritually may be.

‘Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and develop community and understanding of living well together.

Policy Statement

At Priddy and St Lawrence's Federation vision and values are central to the life of the school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

At Priddy and St Lawrence's Federation collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish. Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an

understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the children's accomplishments and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to reflect and develop spiritually.

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. The law on collective worship that applies in a community school is "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character". The governing body of the Federation has the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

The right of withdrawal

Within the community of our Federation, there may be children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view. The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

Guiding Principles

Collective worship at the Priddy and St Lawrence's Federation aims to:

- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and reflect. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers.

Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Childrens' personal development and wellbeing
- PSHE
- Behaviour
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community and church

What is Collective Worship?

Collective Worship is an educational activity or experience

- To which all can contribute
- From which all can gain

It is central to education in our school and forms an essential part of the school's overall provision for prayer and worship. Collective Worship in our school respects the diversity of belief and commitment, but it is Christian in character, reflecting in the liturgical tradition of the Church and having Christ at its heart.

Aims

The aim of collective worship at our federation is best characterised by the above statements. We seek to provide opportunities, formally and informally, for children, staff and sometimes parents, to worship together. Children are encouraged to participate and respond, either actively in the presentation of worship or by listening and joining in the celebration.

Organisation

All children will celebrate an act of collective worship each day; generally, there will be three occasions each week when larger groups, usually in key stages, will gather together to worship.

Whole School Collective Worship will normally take place in the school hall or at St. Laurence's Church (Priddy) where the whole family of our federation can 'grow together' spiritually. Classes hold individual collective worship for their own peer groups to understand how they can 'make a difference' through discussing Picture News together. Key stages share collective worship spiritually through worship, songs and praise. We also love to come together as a whole school at both churches. several times across the year.

Open Book takes place once a month at both Priddy and St Lawrence's sites providing the children with an opportunity to hear stories from the Bible.

Collective Worship Leaders play an active role within our collective worship and reflection times. The children contribute and share their own prayers.