



# **Collective Worship Policy**

**Member of staff responsible: RE Lead**  
**Governor responsible: RE**  
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### **‘From small beginnings come great things’ *The Parable of the Mustard Seed* *Matthew 13: 31-32***

At Cadmore End Church of England Primary School, we believe that every child, like the mustard seed, has the potential to grow into something remarkable. Guided by our Christian and British values and strengthened by the close-knit nature of our small school, we are committed to nurturing the educational, pastoral, and emotional development of each individual. Our aim is to provide a personalised experience that enables all members of our school family to flourish both now and in the future

#### **Introduction**

Collective worship is central to the life of our school. It offers a daily opportunity for all members of our community pupils, staff, and visitors to pause, reflect, and connect with our Christian vision and ethos. It is an expression of who we are and what we aspire to be, shaping our relationships, our actions, and our wider community life.

All members of our school community are warmly invited to join and take part in our acts of worship.

#### **Purpose and Aims of Worship**

Our collective worship provides pupils and staff with the opportunity to:

- **Celebrate:**
  - Christian seasons and festivals;
  - The school’s values, rooted in our vision;
  - The achievements of both pupils and adults;
- **Experience:**
  - Prayer, stillness, and spiritual reflection;
  - A growing understanding of and engagement with prayer;
  - A reflective approach to life, including time to explore life’s big questions;
  - A variety of worship styles to enrich their spiritual journey;
- **Develop:**
  - A sense of belonging and identity within a community shaped by a clear and distinctive Christian vision;
  - Confidence to participate in and lead worship, including planning and evaluating;
  - A feeling of safety, respect, and affirmation;
  - A personal and meaningful relationship with God, in a way that is authentic and respectful of individual faith journeys.

#### **Worship and the Curriculum**

Our worship reflects and enhances aspects of the wider curriculum by:

- **Nurturing spiritual growth**, encouraging children to reflect on their beliefs, values, and experiences;

- **Promoting moral development**, providing opportunities to explore ethical questions through a Christian lens;
- **Enhancing social understanding**, fostering empathy, inclusion, and courageous advocacy for others;
- **Encouraging reflection on faith**, helping children consider the place and relevance of faith in their lives and in the lives of others;
- **Celebrating cultural heritage**, respecting and exploring the diverse backgrounds and beliefs of all pupils;
- **Upholding the teachings of Jesus and a Trinitarian theology**, helping children to understand the Christian view of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

### The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective worship is a central and valued part of our school day. It takes place in a variety of settings such as the school hall, classrooms, and on occasions, outdoors. We also gather in our local parish church, St. Mary Le Moor, for special celebrations and services.

We follow the rhythm of the Church year, marking major Christian festivals such as **Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter, and Pentecost**. Additional days such as **Candlemas** are celebrated, alongside other significant events in the wider community calendar, including **Remembrance Day** and our **Year 6 Leavers' Service**.

Wherever worship takes place, it is thoughtfully planned to encourage reflection and impact beyond the moment of gathering itself, offering inspiration for how we live, learn, and grow together as a community.

### Leading Worship

Collective worship at Cadmore End is led by a range of people including:

- **School staff**, who help embed our vision and values through worship;
- **Pupils**, who are encouraged and supported to lead worship throughout the year;
- **Local church leaders and community members**, who bring depth and variety to our worship;
- **Visitors from different faith communities** are welcome to share their traditions, broadening our pupils' understanding and respect for others.

All visitors are provided with appropriate guidance in line with our worship policy, to ensure that worship remains consistent with our values and inclusive of our whole school community.

### Planning Worship

Worship is carefully planned to offer a rich balance between **content** and **experience**, ensuring that each act of worship:

- Reflects our Christian vision and associated school values;
- Is responsive to the **liturgical season**, school events, or community needs;
- Is appropriate for the **age, experience, and understanding** of our pupils;
- Incorporates a range of experiences, from **traditional elements** (such as prayer, Bible stories, and hymns) to **creative expressions** (such as music, drama, dance, and visual reflection).

Children play an active role in the planning process, helping to shape worship that is relevant, engaging, and meaningful.

### Prayer and Reflection

**Prayer is a vital and valued element of our collective worship.** All prayers are introduced with invitational language that respects each individual's right to participate in a way that feels meaningful to them. While prayers are addressed to God, in line with the Church of England tradition, pupils who choose not to pray are encouraged to use this time for quiet reflection.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

We are committed to ensuring that our worship remains a **living, evolving, and impactful** part of school life. We review and evaluate worship regularly through:

- **Pupil and staff feedback;**
- **Observation and reflection;**
- **Review of planning and participation.**

These evaluations are used to inform and enrich future acts of worship.

## Legal Framework

In accordance with the law, collective worship must:

- Be provided **daily** for all pupils;
- **Reflect the Christian foundation** of the school as set out in its Trust Deed.

Our policy affirms that worship at Cadmore End is always:

- **Inclusive:** welcoming to all, regardless of background or belief;
- **Invitational:** never coercive or forced;
- **Reflective:** encouraging pupils to explore meaning and spirituality in a safe and respectful environment.

We recognise that **parents have the legal right to withdraw their children** from collective worship, either wholly or in part. Should parents wish to explore this option, we encourage them to first meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and explore the nature of worship at our school.