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Collective Worship Policy

CULWORTH
C of E
PRIMARY ACADEMY

Approved by:	Governing Body	**Date:** 01/09/2025
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Culworth Primary Academy's Vision, Ethos and Aims

Our Vision
"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." (Matthew 7:12)

Ethos
Recognising its historic foundation, Culworth Primary Academy seeks to serve its community by providing a rounded, connected and coherent education of the highest quality.
We endeavour to preserve and develop our distinct religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England.
The school lives out its twelve Christian Values – Trust, Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness, Friendship, Respect, Thankfulness, Generosity, Perseverance, Justice, Service and Truthfulness, on a two year cycle – and all those essential human values, which are common to good, kind and tolerant people of all faiths and none, through the experiences it offers to all its pupils.

Aims
The school's aim, through its Christian ethos, is the creation of a safe, happy learning environment, which supports all children on their journey to become:

- Successful engaged learners, who enjoy learning, who are knowledgeable and skilled, and who make progress and achieve their best;
- Individuals who respect one another by valuing the differences and diversity in modern Britain today. To help build a world abundant with respect for ourselves, respect for the environment and our community and to thrive as global citizens in today's modern society;
- Believing in themselves. As our belief in God builds up over time, we nurture and nourish the children on their spiritual and academic journey.

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" Matthew 7:12

To achieve these aims, staff and governors will work in partnership with parents, carers and the local community for the benefit of all our pupils.

The Worship Assembly Policy

Rationale for Worship Assembly
At Culworth Voluntary Controlled Primary Academy, we understand worship to be a special time of day, the purpose of which is to show reverence to God. Worship Assembly involves pupils coming together with a member of staff and participating in a daily gathering. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that worship should be wholly or broadly of a Christian character, we base most of this daily gathering on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we aim to conduct our Worship Assembly in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of school and our wider community. Everyone is welcomed - those with a religious faith or affiliation and those with none.

Aims for Worship Assembly
Worship Assembly contributes significantly to the ethos of Culworth Primary Academy, and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can;

- share common aims and values, recognising the Christian God and to reflect the Anglican traditions, but also to respect the traditions of others and the value and depth they bring to the world in which we live.

- explore together the world in which we live and foster a sense of wonder and awe at its beauty, mystery and power.
- allow reflection on the fundamental questions of life, common to all human beings.
- provide an opportunity for celebration and the sharing of successes and challenges in personal, school and community life, exploring emotions such as love, joy, friendship, fear, sadness, forgiveness and humility.
- provide the experience of being part of a caring, Christian community as a firm basis for preparation for life in the richness of modern Britain.

The contribution of worship to the school aims and objectives
At Culworth Primary Academy we endeavour to:

- help children understand the place that Jesus has in the hearts of those with a Christian faith.
- help children understand more of the world around them.
- help children make judgements and form opinions on important issues.
- to prepare children for the opportunities and responsibilities of adult life.

Assemblies are also used to sustain the natural curiosity of the children. We can surprise them, comfort them, challenge them and inspire them. They can help them to understand something of their place in the world regardless of their own religious beliefs or if they have none.

The contribution of worship to children's spiritual and moral development
The National Curriculum 2014 states that schools should provide "a balanced and broadly based curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral and cultural development of pupils".

Spiritual development … the ability to develop and flourish as a human being…

- be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values;
- foster a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them; use imagination and creativity in their learning; reflect on their own experiences.

Moral development … the personal recognition of right and wrong…

- readily apply their understanding of right and wrong in their own lives and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- understand the consequences of their behaviour and actions;
- understand that society's views change and that there are contentious issues where there is disagreement;
- contemplate and offer reasoned opinions about moral and ethical issues and be able to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others.

At Culworth, Worship Assembly is at the intrinsic heart of our distinctive church school. We provide an opportunity for children and staff to worship in a contemporary style but with traditional Christian refrains and responses, which is consistent with the traditional practices of the Church of England.

Practicalities of Organisation
We hold a daily act of Worship in our school. This gathering forms part of each afternoon Assembly. The format for these gatherings is understood by all staff and reviewed periodically.

- We endeavour to conduct Worship Assembly in a dignified and respectful way.
- We tell children that Worship Assembly is special thinking time for calm reflection.
- We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teaching and invite them to participate in prayer and songs.
- We create an appropriate worshipful atmosphere by using music, an alter and candle that act as a focal point for the children.

All members of teaching staff lead assemblies but on Fridays it is usually led by the Head Teacher. Twice a week, the class teachers lead Worship Assemblies for the whole school. Older children within the school also lead Worship once a week. We encourage the children to participate in planning and leading Worship Assemblies, showing others what they have learnt about each Christian Value and sharing ideas that they have discussed in their classes. 'Turn The Page' group from our local Methodist Church in Woodford Halse, lead Worship every Thursday, alongside the children. Members of our local church lead whole school Worship from time to time and a range of visitors contribute to proceedings. This brings greater variety to our assemblies and strengthens links between school and the local church. Parents are invited to Worship and other special services e.g. at Christmas, Harvest and Easter. These events are held in our local church and are planned and led by the children. This promotes the community spirit of the school. We welcome governors' attendance at our Worship Assemblies at any time. Other opportunities for prayer and reflection are given at lunchtimes and in classes at the end of each school day.

Content

Worship Assembly themes reflect the Christian Values we have chosen as a school. These are: Trust, Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness, Friendship, Respect, Thankfulness, Generosity, Perseverance, Justice, Service and Truthfulness. The whole school Worship Assemblies encompass our Christian Values, to reflect The Church Year (e.g. Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost) and other key times (e.g. Remembrance Day, Fair Trade Week and Christian Aid week) as well as covering topical issues that arise.

We also hold Celebration Assemblies that reflect the achievements and learning of the children. These Worship Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which includes that all children are valued and all talents and achievements recognised.

Worship in school usually follows a set three part liturgy beginning with the greeting representing the Trinity, alongside lighting of three candles to represent Jesus bringing light into the world: "God the Father" and response: "Creator of the universe" " God the Son" and response: "Jesus the light of the world," "God the Holy Spirit" and response: "Present with us always." A moment of reflection is then held. At the end, the member of staff leading Worship (or a child) will welcome a child to say, the Lord's Prayer or the school prayer, and children are invited to join in and the candle is extinguished.

Resources

The Lion Storyteller Bible and The Lion Bible for Children are used as the regular source of Bible material to share with children, alongside the Rainbow Good News Bible. The Roots and Fruits 2 book is used to frame our discussions around the Church Year. The Roots and Fruits 1 book is used for discussion, and teachings based on our Values is also used as source material. Song words are kept electronically. The curriculum budget which includes an allocation for Worship resources is reviewed annually by governors.

Evaluation, Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the Governing Body to monitor Worship Assembly, as well as other members of our school community. As part of this process, Pupil Voice are carried out daily via a QR code. Monitoring may also take place with Diocesan School Support.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly, and we highlight this with parents at the time of admission. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending Worship Assembly and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child. Parents can do so without reason. This complies with current legislation. The Head Teacher keeps a record of any children who are withdrawn from Worship Assembly.