

Learning and living as children of God

(Ephesians 5:1)(You are God's children whom he loves. Try to be like God)

Deerhurst and Apperley C of E Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed: October 2025

Review July 2027

Policy for Collective Worship

This policy outlines the principles, practices, and procedures for **Collective Worship (CW)** at Deerhurst and Apperley C of E, in accordance with the requirements of the Education Act 2002 and the school's foundation as a Church of England (C of E) school.

Learning and living as children of God

(Ephesians 5:1) (You are God's children whom he loves. Try to be like God)

We serve our community by providing the highest quality education, encouraging understanding of faith and promoting Christian values. All children can express curiosity, explore big questions, share socially and spiritually with freedom to make good choices underpinned by our values. Respect, Friendship, Perseverance, Thankfulness, Trust and Truthfulness and our shadow values of Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness, Generosity, Justice and Service



Spirituality at Deerhurst & Apperley School

We promote an awareness of there being more than yourself in the world, nurturing a sense of awe and wonder.

The Governors and staff of Deerhurst & Apperley C of E Primary School place importance on the daily act of collective worship, and fully comply with the requirements set out in the Education Reform Act (1998).

Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and will reflect the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. This will include belief in God the source of all being and life, belief in Jesus who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection and belief in the Holy Spirit who makes the presence of Jesus known in the world.

The Legal Requirements

The Education Reform Act (1998) requires that all registered pupils take part in a daily act of collective worship, which takes account of their age and aptitude. It is the Headteacher's responsibility, together with the school governors to ensure this provision. Collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', that is worship which reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief. Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and if this happens, suitable arrangements will be made to accommodate these children. Since this is a church school, however, worship is central to its life and work and is regarded as a very important part of children's education.

Church of England Requirements

Frequency: Collective Worship will take place every school day, either as a whole school, in key stages, or in class groups.

Distinctly Christian: The majority of acts of Collective Worship will be **distinctly Christian** in character. This means they will explore themes, texts (primarily the **Bible**), and practices rooted in the tradition of the Church of England.

Foundation: CW will be planned around the school's vision and **Christian values**, and may reference the **diocesan framework** for worship.

Aims of collective worship

Collective Worship is central to the life of a Church of England school and should contribute to its spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development.

Collective worship at Deerhurst & Apperley C of E Primary School aims to provide the opportunity for children to:

1. To provide an experience of worship that will allow children to respond to the presence, power and peace of God;
2. To enable pupils to explore and deepen their understanding of the Christian faith and values (e.g. respect, friendship, love, forgiveness, justice).
3. To encourage a sense of community, belonging, and shared reflection.
4. To respond to and celebrate special times in the Church's year (e.g., Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter).
5. To promote the spiritual development of all participants, regardless of their personal belief.
6. To celebrate the gifts that each child brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual;
7. To foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.
8. To encourage children to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around them

We encourage participation and response through active involvement in the presentation of worship and through listening to and joining in the worship offered. We aim to develop a sense of community spirit, to promote a common ethos and shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes. Our aim is that worship should be inclusive, enabling all members of the school to participate with honesty and freedom. This means that children of other faiths or no particular faith are able to join in our 'broadly Christian' worship, reflecting on their own beliefs and that children of Christian faith will be able to participate and reflect during occasional assemblies structured around other religions or beliefs.

Structure for worship

A varied style of provision is maintained each week at Deerhurst & Apperley C of E Primary School. A typical pattern for a week follows:

Monday - Whole school worship taken by vicar; supported by the HT/CT

- Tuesday - Class Worship (parents invited on a rota)
- Wednesday - Open the Book taken by the ministry team
- Thursday - Worship through Singing
- Friday - Celebration assembly led by HT

Parents are invited to special worship services (e.g. Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Leavers). Some of these take place in one of our local churches.

Location and Leadership

Location: Collective Worship may take place in the school hall, classrooms, and, where appropriate, the local parish church Holy Trinity inn Apperley Village

Leadership: Collective Worship will be led by a variety of people, including:

- The Headteacher (HT)
- Open the Book Team by the ministry team
- Teachers and support staff.
- The Incumbent/Vicar or authorised members of the parish team.
- Pupils (as appropriate to their age and development).

Content and Planning

Collective Worship should be creative, engaging, and relevant to the lives of the pupils. It must follow a structured cycle that includes:

- **Gathering:** A clear start that brings the community together (e.g., a processional entrance, a greeting).
- **Engaging:** Presenting a theme or story (often a biblical passage), using drama, music, or visual aids.
- **Responding:** Providing an opportunity for reflection, prayer, or singing.
- **Sending Out:** A final thought, blessing, or challenge to take into the day.

Element	Description
Biblical Focus	Key stories and teachings from the Old and New Testaments.
Thematic	Exploring Christian virtues and school values.
Liturgical	Following the cycle of the Church year (e.g., Harvest, Ascension).
Prayer	Teaching different forms of prayer, including the Lord's Prayer .
Music	Use of traditional and modern hymns, worship songs, and music for reflection.

Worship themes are taken partly from resources such as 'Roots and Shoots, Jack in the Box etc. Resources are available (although staff are welcome to use their own). The themes are mostly adhered to, but on occasion we will prefer to respond to current events, e.g. national or local tragedy or disturbance. On yet other occasions a need will be perceived within the school for worship which promotes or celebrates, for example, kindness or helpfulness. Records of collective worship are kept by the Head teacher and Class teachers who also have a class worship book.

Resources available for worship

There is a selection of teacher resources available to help with leading collective worship. We use the Bible as a source book of inspiration and learning. We also have puppets and other support, all of which are kept in our worship chest.

That's an excellent framework! Integrating your core values directly into the termly plan makes the Collective Worship highly relevant and focused.

Here is a suggestion for a **Collective Worship Content Cycle** based on your Church of England school foundation and your specific termly values:

Collective Worship Content Cycle

The cycle below outlines the focus for each term, ensuring that the majority of acts of worship are **distinctly Christian** while deepening the understanding of the specific value.

Autumn Term Focus: Friendship and Respect

Week Theme	Value Link	Christian Focus / Biblical Link	Example Activity / Reflection
Beginning the Year	Friendship	God as Creator / Welcoming the Stranger	Finding common ground and belonging; reflecting on the school as a family.
Covenant & Commitment	Friendship	David and Jonathan (1 Samuel 18-20) - deep loyalty and sacrifice.	Discussing what it means to keep a promise to a friend.
Inclusion & Diversity	Respect	The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) - respect for those who are different.	Considering how we listen to different points of view without judgment.
Self-Respect & Care	Respect	The body as the Temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19).	Reflection on valuing and looking after ourselves and others.
Harvest Festival	Friendship/Respect	God's provision and sharing with the poor (Deuteronomy 15:7-11).	Giving thanks and respecting the resources we have.
Forgiveness	Friendship	Jesus and the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) - repairing broken relationships.	Understanding the need to ask for and give forgiveness to maintain friendships.
Advent / Christmas	Friendship	The Incarnation (God showing ultimate friendship to humanity) and the hospitality shown to Mary and Joseph.	Preparing for the birth of Jesus and celebrating God's love.

Spring Term Focus: Perseverance and Thankfulness

Week Theme	Value Link	Christian Focus / Biblical Link	Example Activity / Reflection
New Beginnings	Perseverance	The Disciples fishing (Luke 5:1-11) - trying again after failure.	Setting goals and celebrating small steps of progress.
Strength	Perseverance	Job (Book of Job) -	Discussing resilient

Week Theme	Value Link	Christian Focus / Biblical Link	Example Activity / Reflection
through Struggle		maintaining faith despite trials.	characters in the Bible and history.
Gifts and Talents	Thankfulness	Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) - thanking God by using what we have well.	Identifying and celebrating individual and communal gifts.
Giving Thanks Daily	Thankfulness	The Eucharist (Thanksgiving) / Paul's instruction to "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).	Practising mindful thankfulness for the everyday things we often overlook.
Lent: Sacrifice	Perseverance	The Temptations of Jesus in the Wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11).	The challenge of sticking to good choices and resisting negative influences.
Lent: Hope	Perseverance	Noah's Ark and the Rainbow (Genesis 9) - enduring hardship with faith in God's promise.	Keeping faith when things are difficult.
Easter	Perseverance / Thankfulness	The Crucifixion and Resurrection - the ultimate demonstration of enduring love and the cause for ultimate thankfulness.	Celebrating the victory of life over death and new hope.

Summer Term Focus: Trust and Truthfulness

Week Theme	Value Link	Christian Focus / Biblical Link	Example Activity / Reflection
Lying and Consequences	Truthfulness	Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11) - the importance of being honest with God and others.	Defining the difference between secrets and lies.
God as a Refuge	Trust	The Psalms (e.g., Psalm 23, Psalm 46) - expressing complete	Reflecting on who we trust and why.

Week Theme	Value Link	Christian Focus / Biblical Link	Example Activity / Reflection
		confidence in God.	
Being a Good Witness	Truthfulness	Jesus stating, " I am the way, the truth, and the life " (John 14:6).	Discussing speaking the truth with kindness and integrity.
Faith and Action	Trust	Peter walking on water (Matthew 14:22-33) - trusting in Jesus even when afraid.	How our trust in others (or God) helps us overcome fear.
Pentecost	Trust	The Holy Spirit coming to the disciples - trusting God's ongoing presence and guidance.	Relying on inner strength and divine help.
End of Year Review	Trust/Truthfulness	The Great Commission: Go and tell the truth (Matthew 28:16-20).	Reviewing the school year and celebrating how we lived out our values.

Additional Notes for Implementation

- **Parish Link:** Ensure the local Vicar/Clergy are regularly invited to lead worship, ideally aligning their topics with the termly focus.
- **Themed Days:** Designate one day a week (e.g., Monday) for the Headteacher to introduce the **weekly value/theme** and another day (e.g., Friday) for a **pupil-led reflection** on how the value was lived out.
- **Music:** Select hymns and songs that explicitly link to the Christian stories and the termly values.

Arrangements for withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship and this is clearly stated in the school policy. Parents do not need to give a reason for their request, which will normally be discussed with the Headteacher first. If children are withdrawn, worship time will be spent with a TA, perhaps to consider matters around the worship theme, but without any religious content.

Evaluation and monitoring

At Deerhurst & Apperley C of E Primary School, we recognise the importance of ensuring that children are fully involved in our acts of collective worship and that they are gaining meaning from them. Children therefore take an active role in planning and leading worship. Worship is also constantly evaluated by the children themselves, parents and governors.

Monitoring and Review

This written policy was drawn up by the Headteacher and RE Subject Lead, after full consultation with all staff.

This policy was approved by Governors July 2022.

Signed:	Chair of Governors Mr A Matthews	Date: Oct 2025
Signed:	Head teacher Mrs J Neveu	Date: Oct 2025