



PINNACLE SCHOOLS FEDERATION

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Author/Person Responsible	<i>Executive Headteacher</i>
Date of Ratification	<i>28/2/23</i>
Ratification Group	<i>Ethos Committee</i>
Review Frequency	<i>Biennial</i>
Review Date	<i>February 2025</i>

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Part 1: EIA Screening

DOCUMENT:	Collective Worship Policy	DATE:	09.11.20
CARRIED OUT BY:	Kate Bashford	APPROVED BY:	Mike Riches

Groups that may be affected:

Are there concerns that the policy could have a different impact on any of the following groups? (please tick the relevant boxes)	Existing or potential adverse impact	Existing or potential for a positive impact
Age (young people, the elderly; issues surrounding protection and welfare, recruitment, training, pay, promotion)	No impact	
Disability (physical and mental disability, learning difficulties; issues surrounding access to buildings, curriculum and communication)	No impact	
Gender reassignment	No impact	
Marriage and civil partnership	No impact	
Pregnancy and maternity	No impact	
Race	No impact	
Religion and belief (practices of worship, religious or cultural observance, including non-belief)	No impact	
Gender identity	No impact	
Sexual orientation	No impact	

Any adverse impacts are explored in a Full Impact Assessment.

Rationale

Our school vision statements inform the policy and practice of collective worship at The Pinnacle Schools Federation:

At Hawkesbury, our vision is for every member of the school community to flourish in their learning and living, enabling others to do the same so that they are prepared for life both now and in the future. This is achieved through the values of Respect, Perseverance and Creativity.

At Iron Acton, our vision is for every member of the school family to take active care of ourselves, each other, our learning, our community and the environment, even when this is hard. This is achieved through the values of Listening, Nurturing, Welcoming and Celebrating.

Collective worship should:

- Reflect the school's distinctively Christian vision and values
- Be inclusive, invitational and inspiring
- Provide opportunities to appreciate a range of forms of Christian worship

School worship is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian vision and values of the school and provides a space and a place for telling the story of the Christian faith. In our schools, we seek to provide a community that will sustain and guide pupils; school worship provides an opportunity for the mutual giving and receiving of worth within a zone of freedom where individuals can face choices.

Worship is central to the life and purposes of our schools 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. Prayer and time to reflect are part of each school day and pupils are encouraged to pray in a variety of creative ways.

Aims

Through collective worship in our schools we aim to:

- provide an experience of worship that will help children to respond to the presence, power and peace of God, allowing the expression of an encounter with God in verbal and non-verbal language.
- provide opportunities for reflection, participation and enjoyment where children can be actively involved, take part in ritual and "special time" that encourages calm, stillness and peace.
- introduce children to Christian language, icons and symbolism as well as the cycle of the church year so that children are offered a pattern of meanings and a symbolic framework.
- explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers and introduce children to some well known Christian prayers, e.g. Lord's Prayer
- strengthen and support each school's community, giving expression to, and reaffirming, the core Christian values agreed by all stakeholders in the schools. Worship will not compromise the integrity and dignity of individuals but will provide a shared experience which is educational in nature; a time where individuals can reflect inwardly and where together the school community can explore ways of living which reflect the shared vision and values of the school.
- develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts that each child brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God

- encourage pupils to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around them
- foster a concern for others within the school community and wider world.
- foster an appreciation, and awareness, of our responsibility for the created world.
- encourage respect of others' religious beliefs and practices.
- evoke a sense of beauty, awe, wonder and feelings of pride, pity, compassion, etc through exploring the spirituality of life and experience.

Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils that takes account of their age and aptitude (Education Reform Act 1988). Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

In our schools, worship has a central place and is regarded as a very important part of pupils' education. There is an expectation that parents would meet with the Executive Headteacher to explore their reasons for requesting a withdrawal. The governors have the responsibility for worship in a church school, in consultation with the Executive Headteacher. There is an expectation that staff will be fully involved in worship in our schools.

Organisation

The Christian vision and values of the schools are identified and expressed and celebrated in collective worship through a variety of services each week;

- Whole school acts of collective worship led by the Executive Headteacher, Deputy Head or another member of staff
- Whole school acts of collective worship led by a member of the clergy from the local Anglican church
- Whole school or small group acts of collective worship led by visitors, including the Open the Book team from our local churches
- Whole school acts of collective worship led by a class or group of children, e.g. Worship Warriors / collective worship team
- In class acts of collective worship led by the children and class teacher
- Celebration service

During collective worship, children are supported in making links between Bible stories and the Christian vision and values of the school.

Worship includes the use of the worship table, candles and focus pictures. Liturgical colours are used to mark the seasons of the church year, Christian symbols used in the hall and worship table, music used for gathering and sending out, songs often sung. Worship is sometimes conducted in the spiritual garden. We visit our local Anglican churches for celebratory worship throughout the year.

All children are invited to participate in Collective Worship through taking part in a variety of ways;

- being encouraged to ask and answer questions
- storytelling
- reading
- using pupils' artwork
- using poems or prayers written by the pupils
- allowing children to plan and lead worship

Worship also focuses and celebrates key parts of the church year, using the Bible and key stories as a source book of inspiration and learning.

Act of collective worship will be clearly timetabled and separated from other curriculum areas, school activities and assemblies. Most worship will last around 15-20 minutes.

Acts of collective worship will be based on the 'Roots and Fruits' resource which is rooted in the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

Parents/carers will be kept informed of the termly focus through the school newsletter.

Pupils will be given opportunities to reflect upon shared feelings of joy, sadness human experiences and worldly concerns.

Parents, carers, families and governors will be invited to church services and school based collective worship as appropriate.

The Worship Warriors / collective worship team will meet twice per term to discuss collective worship, its content and delivery. They will have the opportunity to plan and lead acts of worship on a regular basis.

Monitoring

Worship is evaluated and monitored by both the Headteacher and the foundation Governors through participating in acts of worship and using the school's evaluation forms.