



Long Clawson
Church of England
Primary School

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Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

At Long Clawson Church of England Primary School, we believe that every child should have the opportunity to take part in a daily act of Collective Worship which will be personally meaningful and, at the same time, be rooted in the Christian ethos of the school. It is a key opportunity to celebrate and embed our school's Christian values:

- Contentment
- Honesty
- Kindness
- Loyalty
- Patience
- Respect

It also gives us the opportunity to enact our vision: 'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart' (Colossians 3.23) and helps us build a warm and inclusive school.

Collective worship at Long Clawson is more than just a legal requirement: we believe it is integral to the life of the school and the development of our children. We believe that coming together each day in collective worship strengthens our school community and the children's sense of belonging. While often joyful and celebratory in nature, we believe that collective worship must also allow children time for quiet reflection and contemplation in order to develop their personal, spiritual and moral identities.

Our daily act of collective worship will be in keeping with the principles and practices of the Church of England. However, links will be made to other Christian denominations and world religions which reflect positive comparisons and common ground along with the variety of beliefs. We seek to provide positive experiences of Christianity but, at the same time, respect the integrity of each individual: holding 'a very open door always inviting, but never forcing' (CoE, 2015). All are welcome to participate including all staff members and visitors.

Legal Requirements:

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

Aims

In our Collective Worship, we aim to inspire and enthuse. We will provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- worship God
- reflect upon spiritual and moral issues and how they affect us personally
- explore and develop their own beliefs, values and morals; distinguishing between right and wrong
- consider their own place within the surrounding world and appreciate that they have a duty of stewardship towards it
- participate and respond, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered
- develop a community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes affirming pupils' personal worth both as individuals and as members of our community
- celebrate difference and develop their understanding of and respect for other people's faiths, feelings and values

Objectives

Many of our children are not familiar with either individual or collective worship when they join us. Other children may already have a more developed sense of their own spirituality. We seek to welcome, support and respect everyone.

The objectives of our Collective Worship are to:

- Introduce all pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement and prayer.
- Create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere in assembly which is conducive to worship including the manner of entry and exit.
- Encourage, in children, a thoughtful and reflective attitude and to help them experience a sense of awe and wonder including the 'ows' and the 'wows' of the world around us, locally, nationally and globally.
- Equip our children with resilience and aspiration in the face of the 'ows'. Our wider world may be a place of economic, social and political challenge but we want our children to believe that they can help build a brighter tomorrow.
- Enable pupils to learn about and consider in-depth religious teaching, festivals and biblical material
- Enable pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to those of others promoting sensitivity and sincerity.
- Guide children towards the spiritual and religious options open to them.
- Develop a sense of community within the school.

Principles

The following principles guide our approach to collective worship:

- Collective Worship should have a sense of occasion
- Collective Worship should provide experiences within which pupils' spiritual development may flourish
- Collective Worship should be a means of expressing the ethos and values of the school
- Collective Worship should be shaped to the needs of the school in terms of time and place, content, style.
- School should provide a varied pattern of worship to broaden pupils' experience of its different forms
- Collective Worship should recognise that the school includes children from different religions and non-religious backgrounds and celebrate this diversity
- During Collective Worship, some will be worshipping and some will be experiencing something approaching worship; others will be finding out what it is like to worship by being with those who are
- Acts of Collective Worship are not part of designated curriculum time but will support the broader curriculum through the use of the highest standards of music, art, drama, literature and other forms of expression
- Collective worship is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life, to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in the midst of a busy life. We recognize the importance of this for spiritual, emotional and mental well-being.

Approaches to Collective Worship:

"There are times when worship will be quiet, contemplative and serene and others with laughter, music and dance will be the appropriate form of expression."

Collective worship, which may be whole school, key stage, or class, is conducted in a dignified and respectful manner. It is a time for calm and reflection where the ethos of the school is developed, shared values are explored, and the lives of all those taking part are enriched. Children are encouraged to be quiet and thoughtful and listen carefully to the teachings and participate appropriately in prayers, hymns and worship.

Collective worship may take place in a classroom, the hall or even outside. We are also fortunate to visit St Remigius, our village church, each year to celebrate key events in the Christian calendar such as Harvest, Easter and Christmas. We always seek to welcome family members and members of the local community and the church to these services.

During assemblies, resources will be used which draw on the life and teachings of Jesus from the new Testament, the stories used by Christians and Jews from the old Testament and the sacred writings of major world faiths. Christian festivals will be celebrated when they occur and the festivals of other world religions explored with respect throughout the year. We aim to provide varied experiences of collective worship and some of these are outlined in Appendix A.

Visiting speakers, including the local ministers, are invited during the course of the year to make contributions to the collective act of worship and the Religious Education of the children. At other times, members of staff will lead the worship on a rota basis.

Time allocation: normally assembly and collective worship last 15 to 20 minutes each day. On special occasions this time allocation maybe longer.

Resources CDs, books, pictures, posters and artefacts are available in school for use during assemblies. Provision of the resources will be reviewed on a regular basis as part of the development process.

Prayer

Christians believe that God guides us in all we do. We believe that it is important to remember Him throughout the school day not just in Collective Worship. We say a communal Grace in classes, before eating lunch and again at the end of the school day. Children may choose whether they wish to pray but are expected to respect those who do by reflecting quietly and peacefully during these times. One aspect of our prayers is to give thanks. Even for those children who do not wish to engage in Christian prayer, we think that it is important to acknowledge how fortunate we are to have our friends, our school and so many opportunities.

Rights of Withdrawal

As a Church of England school it is our expectation that all children will be present during acts of worship as the school is committed to showing respect for each individual's faith stance. However, parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship if they so wish. As far as possible, appropriate supervision will be provided for those who withdraw.

In this school, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Collective Worship Coordinator, the Governing Body and the Executive Head Teacher. The Collective Worship Policy is available to parents on request. The Executive Head Teacher and governing body monitor our Collective Worship Policy on a regular basis.

This policy was approved by the Governing Body of Long Clawson Church of England

Primary School at their meeting on _____ and will be reviewed in the

Spring Term 2028.

Signed: Carole Brown (Chair of Governors)

Appendix A

Types of Assemblies

Monday	Whole School	Teacher – Mrs Lamb /Visiting Cleric
Tuesday	Whole School	Executive Head Teacher – Mrs Lambert
Wednesday	Whole School: Praise and Sing	Teacher – Miss King
Thursday	Roots and Fruits	Teacher – various
Friday	Whole School: Celebration Assembly	Teacher – Mrs Kay

Praise and Sing – children worship through music. They may be learning new hymns and songs in preparation for church services or Christian festivals.

Key Stage Assembly – enables staff to discuss more complex ideas at an appropriate level.

Celebration Assembly – is a chance to thank God for the week and experiences that we have enjoyed. We celebrate the efforts and achievements of everyone, in particular, those who have received certificates for merit awards or extra-curricular activities. We recognise those children named in our weekly Book of Stars and the recipients of our half-termly Christian Star awards. Parents will at times be invited to attend.

Church services – to celebrate key events in the Christian calendar, we visit St Remigius', our church. We always seek to welcome families and members of the local community to these. Our services are often led by Rev'd Shouler, our vicar, or other figures from the church community.