



The Swallowtail Federation of Church Schools With friendship, trust and kindness we fly!



(Love your neighbour as yourself, Mark 12:31)

We welcome all people and encourage everyone to meet their full potential – to love each other, love to learn and learn to live in all its fullness. We love our neighbours – in our school, our federation, the local community, nationally and globally, as Jesus told us to do so.

Collective Worship Policy

**This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body every 3 years.
This policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body in
December 2020. It is due for review December 2023.**

Signature N. Butcher Executive Headteacher Date: December 2020

Signature S.Watts Chair of Governors Date: December 2020

Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The Swallowtail Federation comprises of three Church of England voluntary controlled schools. All acts of worship are in accordance with each school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the schools. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as school communities to:

- offer well planned opportunities to worship God;
- enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- enable children to learn about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit;
- enable children to explore their own beliefs and respect the beliefs of others in an environment where each individual's integrity is respected;
- encourage participation and response;
- develop a sense of community spirit;
- promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes which underpin the Christian values and ethos of our Federation;
- enable children to experience shared elements of Christian worship and reflect some of the practices of our local churches;
- show appreciation of God given gifts, talents and achievements.

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of each school coming together and participating in worship. We expect all children to take an active part in the collective worship but make it clear in the School Brochures that parents have the right to withdraw their children. (see note 4.1 below) School staff are encouraged to join the children but are under no obligation to do so.

We trust that all children will worship together and that parents will encourage this, however we are aware that some parents may want to withdraw their children thus showing kindness, friendship and understanding towards them.

2.2 The 1988 Education Reform Act states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. As Church schools, our worship must be wholly Christian in nature. Therefore, we base our collective worship on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the schools and ensure that worship is appropriate to the age, aptitude and background of the children.

We show kindness & friendship to other faiths and beliefs. We trust that we will meet all needs of each individual child.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship which includes the whole school.

3.2 We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. We regard collective worship as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. Collective Worship is opened with an agreed format, therefore setting the scene for this special time. Children are encouraged to listen carefully, participate fully and share their own thoughts and ideas. To create an appropriate atmosphere music is played on entrance to and exit from the room, a worship table is central to Collective Worship and contains a cross, Bible, Prayer book, the liturgical coloured cloth and any other focus objects for the value theme for that week. Collective Worship takes the format of entrance, call for worship, engage and response, singing, prayer, close of worship, reflection and sending.

We trust all children to show kindness, friendship and respect to each other and the person leading Collective Worship.

3.3 Collective worship may be conducted by the Executive Headteacher, Heads of School, teachers, other members of staff and a variety of local visitors including church clergy, lay ministers and readers.

We trust all leaders to do this in an appropriate way and in a Christian way.

3.4 We take the themes of our collective worship from the Values for Life programme as well as incorporating the festivals of the Christian calendar in our three year rolling programme. This overview is planned by the Collective Worship lead on a termly basis and consists of each day's plan. Those leading worship are encouraged to use this plan along with the resources provided. On occasions it is recognised that leaders may feel that they need to respond to local or national events. Sometimes the themes of our Collective Worship are related to topics that we teach as part of the schools' curriculum. Collective Worship is planned well in advance of the day they take place.

We trust that the plan will be written, ready and resourced. The person who plans this is showing kindness and friendship to all who leads Collective Worship as they ensure that it is ready in time.

3.5 Our collective worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the collective worship by showing their work, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective worship provides an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school, playing an important part in promoting the ethos of the schools, which is that all children are valued, cared for, and all achievements are recognised.

Here the children show how they fly with their learning both inside and outside of school. The children trust that we are going to celebrate their achievements, they trust each other to be able to stand and show what they have done. The children show friendship and kindness towards each other as they listen to each other's views and understand that not everybody thinks the same but everybody's thoughts are relevant.

3.6 Parents are invited twice a week to attend Collective Worship. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements. It is also an opportunity to demonstrate and celebrate the Christian distinctiveness of the schools.

Here we show how we love our neighbour as we work within the community, sharing our learning, helping others, inviting them in to school, visiting the church and inviting parents and members of the community to join us.

3.7 Resources for Collective Worship are provided by the lead who ensures that digital resources are uploaded on the Drive and ready in advance. Schools have a wide selection of books, some artefacts and music to support staff in the delivery of Collective Worship.

We trust that these resources are available and if needed that they will be purchased.

3.8 We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability and therefore make collective worship accessible to all.

We show friendship and kindness to all and are inclusive to all too.

3.9 Each half term we encourage the children to take the lead in Collective Worship. This gives the children ownership of Worship and a feeling of leadership. Planning is carried out alongside a member of staff who guides but does not lead.

3.10 Year 5 and 6 children are welcome to apply to be Vision Ambassadors across the Federation. They write a letter of application stating how they will uphold the Vision and support staff. The Vision Ambassadors lead a Collective Worship in each school at least once a term and help to monitor it.

4 Right of withdrawal

4.1 We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the schools will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the collective worship. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The parents trust that they can approach us and speak us about their concerns regarding Collective Worship and that we will respect their wishes to withdraw their children. We show friendship and kindness when dealing with all parents.

4.2 The Executive Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship and this is reported on to governors annually.

4.3 Staff have the right to withdraw from Collective Worship, however this must be discussed with the Executive Head Teacher. The leading of Collective Worship is fully encouraged as we are Church schools.

5 Contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development

5.1 Although SMSC development is fostered across the curriculum, collective worship provides opportunities for children to reflect on the meaning of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions made by other people, value their own culture and the culture of others.

Children and adults trust that they will be forgiven if there is any disconcertment. Friendship and kindness is shown through appreciating other people's values, and cultures.

6 Monitoring, evaluation and review

6.1 Collective worship is monitored and reviewed by the Collective Worship lead. Staff who deliver it are encouraged to pass on any evaluation to the lead who uses these when planning subsequent worship sessions. Vision Ambassadors also support with the monitoring of Collective Worship.

6.2 Foundation governors routinely monitor worship as part of their role to ensure that the legal requirements are met by attending a worship session, looking at plans and evaluations and by speaking to the children as part of their annual monitoring programme.

We trust that monitoring is done in a sensitive and constructive way with kindness being shown throughout.

6.3 The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all those who plan and lead collective worship, but the Executive Headteacher retains statutory accountability for ensuring that all acts of collective worship meet the requirements of the law and the expectations of the governing body.

We trust that leadership will ensure that this is carried out.

6.4 This policy will be reviewed every three years.