


Sparsholt C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy 2023-2026



Review frequency (by Chair of CC)	3 yearly
Last approval date	30 th March 2023
Next approval date	March 2026
Is this policy statutory or non-statutory?	Non-Statutory
Signature of Headteacher	
Signature of Chair of approving body (FGB)	

We are a Church of England school deeply committed to our children, parents and the village community we serve. Our Christian values of courage, compassion and creativity contribute to the well-being and spiritual development of the school community. This is evident in all our relationships and work throughout the school where all are welcomed equally irrespective of their own personal beliefs.

We are the village school making a world of difference. We have a long history of strong, Anglican links and we are proud to provide all pupils with an educational experience that sets them on their own spiritual journey. Throughout this journey, we never expect children to be Christians, nor do we seek to convert them.

At Sparsholt Primary School, our worships include distinctively Christian elements because we are proud to be a Church of England school with strong links with our parish church, St Stephens and links with St Catherine's (Littleton) and St Mary's (Crawley). Therefore, using and learning about Christian traditions is important to strengthen these links. We value and take pride in the uplifting sense of reverence Christian ceremony offers. As a Church school we have the following aims:

Our aims concerning Worship are:

- To observe the religious cycle of the Christian year i.e. Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost.
- To observe Saints days and other key Holy days.
- To share in a commitment to dialogue with other faiths and celebrate shared values and beliefs.
- To lead worship in our local parish church at least once each term.
- To create a reflective spiritual atmosphere using entry music.
- To enable pupils to experience ritual in the shape and the vocabulary of worship.
- To use songs and hymns to enhance worship.
- To encourage and support pupils as worship leaders in school and church settings.

Our aims concerning reflection are:

- To use the bible as the source of sacred Christian texts for inspiration and learning.
- To provide an opportunity for pupils to experience worship in which God and Jesus are the foci.
- To foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy.
- To facilitate memorable and enjoyable experiences.
- To respond to the spiritual aesthetic in music, poetry, art, literature.
- To use visual foci and Christian symbols.
- To enable pupils to encounter the vocabulary and scope of prayer.
- To give pupils a variety of experiences to enable them to reflect. These will include, stories, drama, dance, poetry, music, mime and use of media.

Our aims concerning personal development are:

- To help pupils discover their place in the world.
- To highlight and nurture spiritual development through experiencing worship.
- To heighten awareness of ultimate questions of faith and to provide the opportunity to reflect upon these.
- To help pupils explore and develop their own spirituality.
- To support the search for meaning and purpose in life.
- To enable pupils to make effective use of silence and stillness in opportunities for reflection, contemplation, meditation and (where appropriate) prayer.

Our aims concerning community are:

- To reflect the school's nature as an inclusive community; to promote a feeling of community in the school through a sharing of experiences and feelings.
- To develop personal relationships and to encourage social and moral development.
- To affirm diversity and the right of each pupil to be treated with dignity, justice and mutual respect.
- To provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others.
- To provide an opportunity for pupils to become acquainted with people from the local and wider communities, including the local churches.
- To encourage respect and care for the world by nurturing a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues.
- To enable pupils to appreciate their worth and value in the community
- To celebrate gifts, talents and achievements.
- To help establish and reinforce the shared values of the school community.

Organisation

Our Collective Worship will last for approximately twenty minutes. We are now using the Diocesan planning format – Gathering, Engaging, Responding, Sending.

A theme is chosen for each week to reflect the Christian Calendar the school year and themes relevant to our school. A variety of published and internet resources are used to support the planning. The plan may change in response to local, national or world events and will encompass important dates in the Christian calendar. Festivals from other religions will be recognised as part of our worship.

Collective Worship will also take place in the local parish church for the celebration of key festivals. We aim for one visit each term. Every effort will be made to involve visitors from charitable organisations, other denominations and the wider community. The school will come together each Friday to celebrate the achievements of members of the school community in Celebration Worship. Peers and staff will nominate children living out our core Christian values of Courage, Compassion and Creativity.

Special Educational Needs

Staff recognise the need to make Collective Worship accessible to all and as such a range of texts are used.

Collective Worship Leader: Mrs Jane Gwilliam

Role of the Collective Worship Leader

The role of the Collective Worship Leader is:

- To lead the Pupil Worship team to plan themes and give guidance for staff.
- To adapt the plan in response to local, national or world events.
- To keep up-to-date with recent publications and developments in the thinking of Collective Worship.
- To liaise with the Clergy and Lay Worship Leaders of The Downs Benefice.

Participation

It is a legal requirement that every child will participate in a Daily Act of Collective Worship. It is the right of parents to request that their children be withdrawn from religious assemblies if they are of a different faith. Parents wishing to exercise this right are requested to do so in writing to the Head teacher. Appropriate arrangements for the supervision of pupils will be made in consultation with the Head teacher, teachers, Governors and the parents.

Reference: – Diocesan Policy on Collective Worship (2006).