



# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Approved: 20 April 2023 by the Interim Executive Board  
Next review: April 2025

## Introduction

Jesus said “**I have come that you may have life in all its fullness**”. John 10:10

At Downland Village Federation Schools, we give our children the best possible start in life by bringing together the individual strengths and characters of our **caring, happy** and **inclusive** small schools, in a partnership that can offer the resources and opportunities of bigger schools.

Through an **exciting, engaging, inclusive** and **challenging** curriculum, and an embedded Christian ethos, we aim to develop pupils who value themselves and others, who **love to learn**, and who aspire to **excellence**.

To help deliver this vision, we will offer our staff the benefits and opportunities of working in a larger team, in an environment where they know and value all pupils and their families.

## Our aims

**Excite, Engage, Include**

**Living Life in all its fullness**

## Our Christian Values

Value statements	Bible references
<b>Love</b> of learning, of others, and of ourselves	My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you John 15:12
<b>Hope</b> and ambition for the future	but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31
<b>Forgiveness</b> of others and empathy for others	Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you Ephesians 4:32
<b>Perseverance</b> to be inquisitive and creative	I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus Philippians 3:14
<b>Respectfulness</b> in all we do	Treat others as you would want them to treat you Matthew 7:12

Our federation provides a **happy, stimulating**, and **nurturing** environment, with an embedded **Christian ethos**, where we:

- work together to maintain thriving and sustainable schools in our communities;
- offer fun, engagement and challenge for everyone in our federation;

- equip our children for a changing world by providing broad and balanced experiences;
- give everyone the self-belief to face their future with confidence;
- share and celebrate our uniqueness across the federation.

Our **collective worship** provides the pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- worship God;
- celebrate:
  - Christian festivals;
  - school values;
  - achievements;
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer;
- develop a reflective approach to life and reflect on Christian values
- develop as a community based on Christian values;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship;
- experience a variety of styles of worship;
- feel safe and affirmed.

At times worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth;
- consider moral issues in a Christian context and to;
- Enhance social understanding;
- explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage.

### **The Pattern of Collective Worship**

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings in the school hall, our churches, classrooms and, on occasions, outside, making use of our spiritual gardens and the beautiful school grounds.

We follow the seasons of the Church year and observe significant festivals and other special days. These include Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost and other days such as Candlemas.

Whenever worship takes place, we plan it to promote thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

### **Leading worship**

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within the three schools and from our local churches. The whole school comes together every morning for 20 minutes; the table below shows how the week is structured.

Each week, our rectors or other ministers from our churches aim to lead worship in school. Children have opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

## **Planning Acts of Collective Worship**

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in Worship according to the Christian calendar, school themes and Christian values. Planning meets the needs of the different ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils. Leaders of all three schools, are members of the Schools Christian Ethos Committee. Members, who include the rectors, R.E leaders and the senior leaders, meet twice a term to discuss suitable themes and values, which then form the basis of worship plans.

Throughout their time at our school, children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as dance and drama, alongside traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. Pupils are invited, but not coerced to participate. Prayers are addressed to Jesus and God, reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray, are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through the Christian Ethos Committee. This includes discussions with participants, observation and reflection. These evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

### **A legal note**

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day;
- reflect the school's Trust Deed.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance, we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the Executive Headteacher.