



LIFE Education Trust

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Policy	Collective Worship Policy
Policy adopted by Trust Board	5.11.24 (updated 10.3.26)
Reported to LGBs for implementation	
Implementation Date	
Review Date	Nov 27
Policy Source	Own Source

Collective Worship Policy

To build great learning communities where children flourish

1. Context

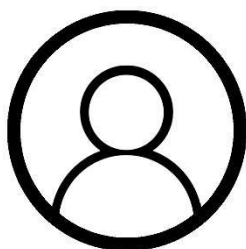
LIFE is a multi academy trust with a broadly Christian ethos and a commitment to support children, employees and schools of all faiths and none. Legally we are a trust with articles of association approved by the Church of England as well as the Department for Education. Our Church schools have historic Christian foundations and a Christian distinctiveness which we will uphold and support. All of our schools have a legal duty to ensure the spiritual development of all our pupils.

The LIFE vision is that **everyone flourishes**. For our people to flourish we believe that they need to feel a sense of **belonging**, to **achieve** and to **contribute** to our community. Our systems can flourish too by being **effective, enabling and evolving**. Our Way of LIFE is beautifully aligned to the C of E vision for education in which human flourishing and, "life in all its fullness" (John 10:10) is the end goal.

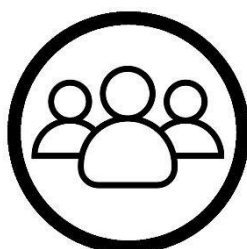
We have three LIFE values: **courageous optimism, boundless creativity and heartfelt compassion**. This focus on hope, creativity and compassion is biblical and theologically sound. We also have three behaviours: **humility, bravery and teamwork** which are clearly seen in Christian tradition and practice.

Collective Worship is part of Spirituality which we define as:

Spirituality is about ensuring that everyone flourishes. It involves each of us understanding ourselves, relating well to others, appreciating the beauty in the world and reflecting on the deeper meaning of life flourishing of others and the world around us. . It also involves us contributing to the



Self



Others



World



Meaning

This Policy should therefore be read in conjunction with the LIFE Spirituality Policy.

The government requires an act of Collective worship for all registered pupils in maintained schools on a daily basis. It states:

Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs, to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.

In our Church of England schools, collective worship is at the heart of our school life. It brings and gives life to all we do. Collective worship is a sacred and significant time of each school day, where we gather together as a school family.

Collective worship strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our CE schools, reaffirms our Trust vision and associated values of ***courageous optimism, boundless creativity and heartfelt compassion***, and celebrates the central role that each pupil and adult have to play in our communities.

Our acts of collective worship reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Each adult and pupil will experience worship that is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality.

3. Language

Collective worship in all schools will be:

- **Inclusive** – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of,

and fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching.

- **Invitational** – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to ‘do anything’. Rather, worship will provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults will only be invited to pray and sing if they wish to do so.
- **Inspiring** – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community’s behaviour and actions.

Collective Worship may include the following:

- Personal reflection and self-expression;
- Exploration of the many values and beliefs which, which for many of our schools are distinctly Christian, are also a reflection of society at large and held as important by members of other world religions e.g. a sense of awe at the natural world (cultural);
- Personal recognition of right and wrong (moral);
- The capacity to flourish as a human being (spiritual).

4. Aims of collective worship in CE schools

Collective Worship offers pupils, staff and the wider school community the opportunity to:

- Gather together to share sacred moments of joy, challenge, grief and love.
- Explore the school’s distinctive Christian vision and values in action
- Reflect on the nature of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts •
Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still, pray and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Explore Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other’s joys and challenges
- Celebrate significant and special times in the Christian calendar

In line with the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule IQ3, we aim to ensure that collective worship:

- a) Enhances the theologically rooted Christian vision and the Anglican/Methodist foundation of our schools
- b) Will support partnerships with the DBE and local parish or church
- c) Will be inclusive, invitational, and inspirational
- d) Will enhance pupils understanding of the meaning of spirituality, enriching individuals’ spiritual development
- e) Will be supported by the Trust contribute to and enhance the school’s worship and spiritual life

We also seek to comply with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each school/academy day take part in an act of Collective Worship.
- The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school/academy and/or the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government, and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools/academies must be Christian in character.
- Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, tutor groups, classes, or other combinations.
- Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school/academy premises but all schools/academies are able to hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
- Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school/academy rests with the Local Governing Body in consultation with the Principal/Headteacher. *(if relevant to your scheme of delegation)*

5. The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship through invitational and inclusive language:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days
- Saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and blessings
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection

We may also use elements which are more distinctively Anglican:

- Using prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and end of worship
- Using Collects as a focus for worship
- Celebrating Eucharist

6. Implementation

The Trust Spirituality Lead is Ceri Daniels. She is responsible for the Trust approach to Spirituality working with the CEO and the Board and is also responsible for this collective Worship policy. Each school will appoint a collective worship lead. Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and at times external visitors, in consultation with the school's collective worship leader. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping

e.g. whole school, key stage or class. Our schools plan systematically and cohesively using the core Christian values and Christian festivals. Our daily acts of worship are adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community.

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities to enable all to engage in the acts of worship. These include: (e.g.: music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT).

Our CE school worship consists of 4 stages:

- **Gather** – we welcome the community, for example, (with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle)
- **Engage** – we share, for example, (a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message)
- **Respond** – pupils, for example, (discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing)
- **Send** – we share, for example, (the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with liturgy, final prayer, music and the blowing out of our special candle)

7. Training and Development

The Trust Spirituality Leader and Collective Worship leads in school will have regular appropriate training and development. Including attendance at Diocesan network meetings. Budgets will be allocated to support this and to resource acts of collective worship at all schools.

8. Expectations of pupils

In our Life schools, there is an expectation that all pupils will be involved within worship on a regular basis. This may be opportunities planned ahead of time by individual or groups of pupils for special events and services, or unplanned through questioning, asking for volunteers or simply responding to moments of spontaneity. We warmly encourage schools who wish to, to also appoint year 6, pupil leaders of worship who become part of our daily collective worship and act as examples to their peers. Alternatively, children across the school can be encouraged to take on similar roles in daily acts of worship.

Pupils are invited to evaluate and reflect on the impact of acts of worship they have joined with. Their voice is integral to improving the structure, content and in shaping future plans for worship.

Pupil worship leaders are supported, encouraged and resourced to contribute meaningful acts of worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the collective worship leader during to develop their own understanding of worship and to design an act of worship to support the spiritual development of their peers.

9. Self-assessment and Inspection

Our schools regularly evaluate all acts of collective worship and the impact they have on the school and our wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop.

We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school.

The impact of collective worship is independently inspected by law as part of The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools 2023 (SIAMS)

10. Visitor Leaders to Collective Worship

All of our LIFE schools work to promote links with other Faiths, local churches and Christian organisations and welcome their leaders and clergy as contributors to school life. We welcome church leaders and clergy to contribute to collective worship

We recognise that while some of our pupils and families belong to Anglican churches, many worship regularly at churches of other Christian denominations, while others come from different faith backgrounds or none. We endeavour to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised, where everyone finds something positive for themselves and there is no pressure to participate inappropriately or to believe.

Visiting Collective Worship Leaders are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies. The welcoming member of staff/Collective Worship Lead, will discuss with the visitor, prior to the visitor leading Collective Worship, the content, expectations and practices Collective Worship. The purpose is to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

11. Parental Withdrawal

Worship is regarded as special time in our school day where we gather as a school family. Reflecting our ethos as a Church of England school, collective worship is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none to be present with integrity. We respect the legal right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. Parents will need to inform the school of their decision. Sixth-form students have the legal right to decide whether to attend.

12. Sixth Form Provision

Church Schools have a statutory duty to provide daily collective worship, but sixth-form students have the legal right to decide whether to attend. In a Church school, we expect sixth-form worship to be invitational, age-appropriate and shaped by the school's Christian vision rather than compulsory.