



Abbots Ripton Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

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(adapted from a model policy shared by the Diocese of Ely)

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Our church school creates a firm foundation where together, with God's help and with the help of others, we learn for life, achieve our best and grow in faith.

A Legal Requirement of a Church School

Arrangements for collective worship in a church school are the responsibility of the governors in consultation with the Head teacher. There are three main legal requirements for collective worship:

- Collective worship in a church school should be carried out in accordance with the school's founding Trust Deed, and in accordance with the School's Vision Statement, which is to be found in the statutory Instruments of Government.
- The school must provide an act of collective worship for all pupils every day. 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 unit.
- A statement must be included in the school brochure that makes it clear parents may withdraw their children from collective worship on religious grounds. A similar statement should appear in the collective worship policy document. Should children be withdrawn, the school must provide adequate supervision to ensure their safety.
- Children should not be withdrawn from collective worship by school staff for example to attend interventions etc.

Aims and purpose of Collective Worship at Abbots Ripton Church of England Primary School

Abbots Ripton Church of England Primary is a small church school with a caring ethos and all are welcomed into the school community. We have strong links with St Andrews Church, Abbots Ripton Village, and other links with churches and schools within the surrounding community.

The aims and purposes of Collective Worship at Abbots Ripton Church of England Primary School are:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to reflect upon God.
- To highlight and nurture spirituality through experiencing corporate worship.
- To provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship.
- To join together to celebrate Christian festivals.
- To enable the children to appreciate their worth and value to God, and to the community and to respect the integrity of all individuals as a child of God.
- To celebrate gifts, talents and achievements.
- To establish, explore and reinforce the common Christian values of the school community, such as love, peace, kindness and compassion.
- To provide an opportunity to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, particularly the church.
- To provide an opportunity to bring before God in prayer, personal needs and those of others.

Organisation and Planning of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of worship in our school hall or in classrooms which includes all members of staff. We have a weekly timetable to allow for a range of worship experiences and some of the older children plan their own class and Key Stage collective worship.

We encourage visitors to collective worship and have regular contact with our Vicar. We make sure visitors are briefed and prepared for leading worship in school.

We hold collective acts of worship on festival days throughout the school year at St Andrews Church, Abbots Ripton. At Easter and Christmas, and the end of the school year, parents and friends of Abbots Ripton School, are invited to join with our school community to celebrate.

We hold half termly Eucharist services and the organisation is supported and led by the local clergy.

On a Friday, our worship reflect the achievements and learning of the children. This 'Celebration Assembly' offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their successes both in and out of school. This plays an important part in promoting the vision of the school, which is that all children are valued and each achieves their best. Each class also leads two sharing assemblies over the year to show the learning journey they have been on over that term.

The Senior Leadership Team coordinate the planning of collective worship, and there is a designated Foundation Committee who supports them in this role. They meet on a termly basis.

We take the themes of our collective worship from the values of the Christian Faith, and we reflect the festivals and events of the Anglican Church Year. Sometimes the themes of our collective worship also reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the RE and PSED Curriculum. Our themes are planned and available to all staff and worship leaders.

Pupils are involved in the leading of collective worship in many ways. These may include saying greetings and responses, by saying a prayer during the time together or by leading the singing of a song. KS2 children also plan their class and/or Key Stage collective worship.

Planning is evaluated on a regular basis and we welcome school governors to our collective worship at any time. We have a link foundation governor who feeds back to the whole Governing Body.

We conduct collective worship in a respectful way using varying types of worship experiences, which may include prayer, music, silence, Bible reading, stories, dance, puppets and song. An appropriate atmosphere is created by using music and candles. We commence each act of Collective Worship with an appropriate greeting and response.

Right of withdrawal

We have an inclusive ethos in our school and like all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending an act of worship. Following discussion with the Head teacher, the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of a child during this period of time. The school office is a place where a child could be supervised. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. Parents who wish to withdraw their child from collective worship should discuss their wishes with the head teacher and the Chair of Governors.

The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the Governing Body to monitor the policy, planning and practice of Collective Worship regularly.

There are also opportunities for children to feedback on the collective worship theme and these reflections are added to a book. Children are also asked about their thoughts on Collective Worship and these evaluations are used to inform planning and practice.