



Freeland CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



Date policy approved and adopted: 26.03.2026

Signed on behalf of the Governors: Chris Jones

Signed by Headteacher: Sarah Nickelson

Date for review: March 2029

A school living out the values of Honesty, Forgiveness, Compassion and Love.

From small beginnings, come great things.

'Know your roots, Branch out, Fly High'

We are a community where every member, from the tiniest seed to the fullest tree, is nurtured and cared for.

Everyone can flourish and be ready to fly the nest and soar high.

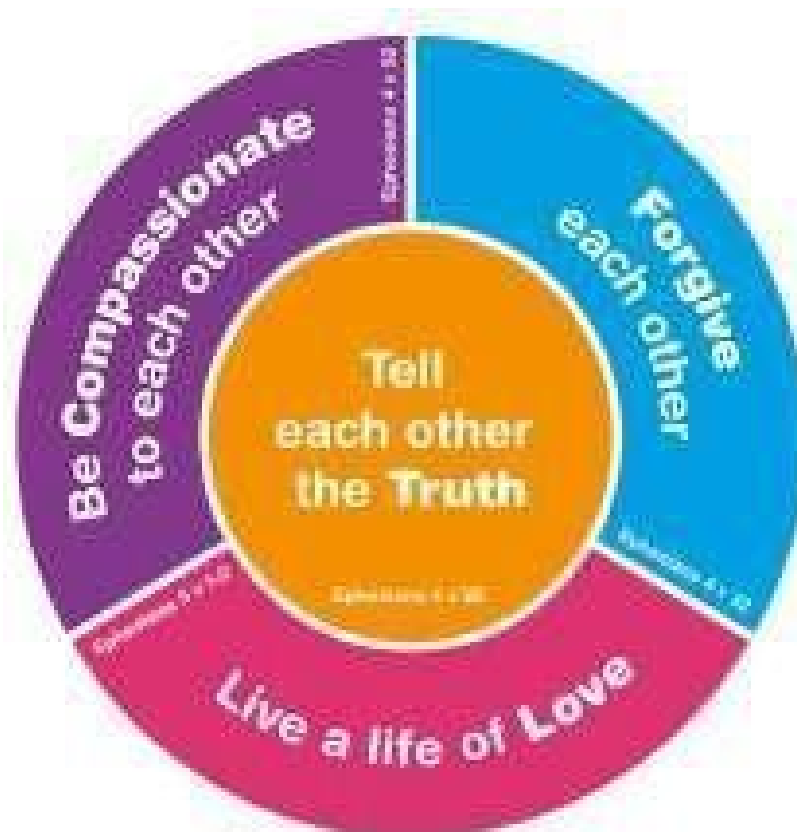
We come together to grow, learn, love and be loved.

PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED

(Matthew 13:31)

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

Our aim is for the children of Freeland CE School to leave their primary education having the integrity, values and inspiration to enter the next step of their journey with confidence and embrace and influence the world that they live in.



At Freeland CE Primary School, Collective Worship is central to the life of our school community. It is an opportunity to promote the Christian foundation of our school, to celebrate and give thanks to God for all aspects of school life and to provide time for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children. It is attended by pupils and staff; we warmly invite any visitors in school to join us. Our Collective Worship is intended to be appropriate for, and to include, all pupils attending Freeland School, regardless of their own personal faith.

How is a Church of England school different?

“A Christian school is one in which the atmosphere has that kind of openness about it, that sense that people are worth spending time with, that people need time to grow, need loving attention. ... It doesn't necessarily mean that everyone involved has to share the same theology or philosophy ... but a Christian school is one in which the entire atmosphere is pervaded by the conviction that there is something mysterious, and potentially wonderful, in everybody.”

Rt. Rev. Dr. Rowan Williams

Collective Worship in school differs from the corporate worship of believers of a particular faith. We recognise that in our school we have children from a variety of faith traditions, including those who have no faith background at all. Great care and sensitivity is taken to ensure that all our children feel valued and special, collective worship aims to be inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

While the law requires a daily act of collective worship that is broadly Christian in nature, we ensure that worship at Freeland CE Primary School is clearly rooted in the teachings and values of the Christian faith, in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England. At the same time, we are committed to ensuring that collective worship is inclusive and invitational, enabling all pupils to engage in a way that is appropriate to their own beliefs and backgrounds. Collective worship will encourage reflection, respect and understanding of other faiths and worldviews, while maintaining the integrity of our Christian foundation and avoiding any sense of compulsion.

Aims

The aims of worship at Freeland CE Primary School are:

- to create an atmosphere in which genuine worship may take place and where pupils' own beliefs are valued and each one has the opportunity to respond in their own way;
- to enable pupils to reflect on the school values (Christian in nature) and to explore their own beliefs;
- to explore and enable pupils to understand our school vision which is supported by the Parable of the Mustard Seed – 'From small beginnings come great things: Know your roots, Branch out and Fly high';
- to bring staff and pupils together to experience the security of belonging to a community with an identity of its own;
- to explore Christianity from a multi-cultural, global perspective, fostering a respect for peoples of all ethnic origins;
- to make an important contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils;
- celebrate and give thanks to God for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals;
- to support the broader creative curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, poetry, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication.

Worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth;
- enable participants to consider moral questions in a Christian context;
- enhance social understanding and encourage responses to issues through courageous advocacy;
- give participants a chance to reflect on the place and importance of faith in the lives of people today;
- encourage participants to explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage; reflect the teachings of Jesus and a trinitarian theology

The Legal Requirements and attendance

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils. The religious foundation of Freeland School as stated in the Trust Deed is Church of England and the daily act of Collective Worship is delivered in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England.

Parents may ask for their child(ren) to be totally or partially withdrawn from Collective Worship in accordance with the Education Act. They are advised of this right in the school's prospectus and asked to contact the Headteacher to make arrangements. No reasons have to be given and no discussion with parents over the issues concerning withdrawal will be necessary. Staff also have the right to withdraw. However, to give pupils the message that this is an important time of the school day, adults are encouraged to be present.

Staff and children (unless they have been withdrawn) should all attend at least Monday's collective worship so that they have a full understanding of the theme of the week and support children through discussion in class. All children should attend collective worship unless there is an exception and if they need to be absent that this is not a regular occurrence.

Responsibility

The responsibility for arranging and coordinating Collective Worship in our School rests with the Headteacher.

The School recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of pupils. On some occasions Assembly may precede or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to Worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on a displayed image, moment of silences and reflection etc.

Worship framework

Worship themes are planned termly (see appendix one) and reflect the School's ethos.

Although the themes will be revisited on a three-yearly basis, they are broad enough to allow for sufficient choice and flexibility.

Planning

Each week there is a bible theme linked to the value of the term. This is used to plan the collective worship and includes a song and music linked to the theme.



Organisation

Each term's Collective Worship is assigned a theme (see Appendix one) and wherever possible, Collective Worship should also be linked to one of the School's core values of **love, honesty, forgiveness and compassion** and linked to our school vision: **'From small beginnings come great things: Know your roots, Branch out and Fly high'**. The values wheel can be used as a point of reference.

Organisation

Our usual collective worship timetable is:

Day and time	Year groups	Taken by	Theme
Monday 9.15am	Whole school	SLT	Termly CW theme
Tuesday 9.15am	Class assembly	Teachers	Jigsaw theme
Wednesday 9.15am	Whole school	Local clergy	Termly CW theme
Thursday 9.15am	Whole school	Teachers	Singing Assembly
Friday 9.15am	Whole school	SLT	Celebration

Opportunities for contemplative worship are provided through the use of the Spacemakers resources. This introduces the five habits of stilling, noticing, dwelling, mending and blessing within the context of a class worship session. This may take place outside the morning worship.

In order to promote our pupils' learning and meet the needs of different age groups, our Collective Worship times vary in size and groupings. (See appendix two.)

At significant times in the Christian/school calendar (such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter, the end of the school year), services take place for the whole school community in St Mary's Church. Parents, friends and Governors are also invited to attend.

Our Approach

Leaders of Collective Worship

Leaders of Collective Worship are encouraged to be creative and engaging in the ways they communicate the message. Acts of Collective Worship are generally led by members of staff with pupils 'involvement being encouraged. Once a week, a representative from one of our local Churches leads Collective Worship for the whole school. On occasions outside speakers are invited to take part in Collective Worship, for example charity workers.

Location of Collective Worship

Worship takes place as a whole school in the hall and sometimes outdoors. At other times worship can be in individual classes in classrooms.

Format of Collective Worship

Collective Worship should last for approximately 15 minutes.

Acts of Collective Worship follow an agreed format:

Entrance: Children come into the hall to thought provoking and awe inspiring images on the screen and music playing.

Welcome: Collect linked to the term's value and lighting of the candle by the Worship Team (see below for more information)

Value: The value is explored with strong links to the Bible and Christian teaching. Links could be made to current/world affairs. Real life stories and experiences may be used along with other stimuli that promote deeper thinking about the value.

Opportunities will be given for pupils to broaden their understanding of Christianity as a multi-cultural world faith.

Reflection: As we close the worship, we make a tie into the daily life of the school and how the implications of worship are worked out in our lives. We give the children time to reflect giving them questions or quotes to think about.

Conclusion: We conclude our act of Collective Worship with an invitational prayer followed by a song or hymn (where possible related to content of the worship).

Opportunity for reflective action and follow up

Structured follow-up activities will be embedded in classrooms and school life to deepen pupils' engagement with worship themes. These may include class discussions, creative projects, acts of service, and community involvement, encouraging pupils to translate reflection into concrete action..

Diversity and multi faith awareness

Collective worship will respect other world faiths and beliefs, fostering mutual understanding and cultural awareness. This will be balanced with the school's Christian foundation, ensuring pupils appreciate Christianity's global and multicultural nature.

Links to curriculum and wider school life

Collective Worship themes and values will be explicitly linked with curriculum topics and wider school initiatives (e.g., PSHCE, restorative practices, safety), ensuring coherence and reinforcing learning across contexts.

Accessibility and Differentiation for SEND Pupils

Leaders of collective worship will collaborate with our SENCO to tailor worship content and delivery to meet the specific needs of pupils with SEND, ensuring full participation and engagement. Resources and approaches will be adapted as necessary, including visual aids, sensory activities, and simplified language.

The Worship Team

The Worship Team are made up of a group of children from Golden Eagles who have the following responsibilities:

- Setting up the assembly hall (setting up of altar, arranging chairs etc.)
- Opening collective worship by reading our vision summary (Know your roots, branch out, fly high) every time we gather as a helpful reminder to the school. At the end of this the team will introduce the value we are focusing on and welcome the leader of the worship
- Lighting the candle
- Contributing and leading parts of Collective Worship
- Supporting visitors

- Check the prayer box where children can engage with God through private or public prayers/reflections throughout the week and these can be read by themselves (or others if preferred) during our worship
- Finish with our school prayer as a united, affirming hope and prayer going into the day
- Once termly - monitoring Collective Worship in School
- Contribute and advertise the prayer shack

The staff also seeks to take advantage of spontaneous opportunities to develop children's spirituality that arise throughout the school day.

Professional Development

Regular professional development opportunities will be provided for all staff involved in leading collective worship to ensure worship is delivered effectively, sensitively, and in accordance with current legal and educational guidance. Training will include understanding of diverse faiths, inclusive practice, and fostering critical reflection.

Evaluation and Monitoring

Children evaluate worship through discussions with staff and our worship team, which serve to reinforce the themes. Feedback is given through regular pupil voice, parents, staff, Governor and visitor feedback, photographs and reflections. Evidence is collated in a book kept in the school hall.

The Headteacher alongside our spirituality lead has overall responsibility for monitoring worship; Governors are also involved in the monitoring process.

The school will review this policy every three years. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the School.



APPENDIX 1



FREELAND CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Values for 2025-2026	
Term	Value
1 September-October	Friendship
2 November-December	Peace
3 January-February	Creativity
4 February-April	Trust
5 April-May	Forgiveness
6 June-July	Justice

Values for 2026-2027	
Term	Value
1 September-October	Courage
2 November-December	Compassion
3 January-February	Thankfulness
4 February-April	Humility
5 April-May	Truthfulness
6 June-July	Hope

Values for 2027-2028	
Term	Value
1 September-October	Respect
2 November-December	Resilience
3 January-February	Curiosity
4 February-April	Community
5 April-May	Service
6 June-July	Care

APPENDIX 2

Rota for Collective Worship at Freeland CE Primary School

	Time	Leader	Focus
Monday	9.15-9.35	Head teacher	Value
Tuesday	9.15-9.35	Class Teacher	PSHCE themed
Wednesday	9.15-9.35	Clergy	Value
Thursday	9.15-9.35	Class Teachers on a rota	singing
Friday	9.15-9.35	Deputy Head	Celebration