



Collective Worship Policy

Date of last review: March 2023



Parbold Douglas CE Academy

Collective Worship Policy [Last updated: March 2023]

Contents

Introduction.....3

Church of England Guidance.....3

Legal Requirements3

The Right of Withdrawal4

Aims of Collective Worship at Parbold Douglas.....5

Guiding Principles: Inclusive, Invitational, and Inspiring.....5

Development of the policy and links to other documentation6

Organisation, Planning and Delivery6

Responsibilities7

Staff development and training7

Policy evaluation and review7



Parbold Douglas CE Academy

Collective Worship Policy [Last updated: March 2023]

Introduction

Worship at Parbold Douglas Church of England Academy is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

*“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, **let your light shine** before others, so that they may see your good works **and give glory to your Father in heaven.**”*

Matthew 5:14-16

The school motto, **let your light shine**, comes from the words spoken to us by Jesus at the sermon on the mount (Matthew's Gospel). Jesus explains that when we let our light shine, others will see and will give glory to our Father in heaven.

Worship at Parbold Douglas is all about giving glory to our Father in heaven:

- We explore scripture and learn so that we are better equipped to take action and let the light of Jesus shine through us.
- We praise God and give thanks.
- We listen to and talk to God through prayer, stillness and reflection.

Collective worship is the most important part of the school day. It is inclusive, invitational and inspiring. Through worship, we seek to meet the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief.

Worship is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives.

Church of England Guidance

The Collective Worship Policy at Parbold Douglas draws on guidance from the Church of England. This guidance has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish and to ‘live life in all its fullness’ John 10:10.

Church of England schools are committed to offering high quality collective worship. They are places that recognise and value collective worship as central to fostering a sense of community and to expressing the school's Christian vision. In practice, this means that structure, planning, evaluation, participation, collaboration, and inspection of worship are all taken seriously by the school and by diocesan authorities.

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, “that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, is not relevant.



Parbold Douglas CE Academy

Collective Worship Policy [Last updated: March 2023]

Worship at Parbold Douglas Church of England Academy is distinctly Christian and reflects Anglican traditions. The school also draw on the rich tapestry of practices in the world-wide Christian Church.

The trust board has the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England. A varied range of approaches to worship will be used whilst remaining true to our Trust Deed.

The school's Trust Deed states:

“subject to clause 27, the Academy trust shall comply with the requirements of section 70(1) of, and schedule 20 to, the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as if the Academy were a foundation or voluntary controlled school with a religious character, and as if references to the “required collective worship” were references to collective worship in accordance with the tenets and practises of the specified religion or religious denomination of the Academy”.

The Right of Withdrawal

Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they are hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. Collective worship occupies a central place in the life of our Church school; this is made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a choose the school, knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from collective worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part.
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas.
- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much.

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts.

If a parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school will respect these wishes.



Parbold Douglas CE Academy

Collective Worship Policy [Last updated: March 2023]

Aims of Collective Worship at Parbold Douglas

Collective worship at Parbold Douglas aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth.
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief.
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Guiding Principles: Inclusive, Invitational, and Inspiring

Worship at Parbold Douglas is inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

Inclusive: Worship is wide-ranging and varied in style. Our use of music and song includes a blend of traditional hymns, lively modern worship music and Taizé prayer chants. Many songs include actions, providing inclusivity for younger pupils. We discuss other faiths and worldviews as part of worship - for example, we learn about Diwali and consider the importance of 'light' as a symbol to Hindus, as well as Christians.

Invitational: We use language carefully in collective worship to ensure it is both invitational and welcoming. We support children to engage with worship in their own way, ensuring it is suited to their spiritual development journey.

Inspiring: We want children to walk away from worship with fresh energy and a renewed motivation to do good (so that they may 'let their light shine'). Worship often feels like a celebration. We want everyone in our school family to feel the deep joy of communicating with God.



Parbold Douglas CE Academy

Collective Worship Policy [Last updated: March 2023]

Development of the policy and links to other documentation

This policy was developed by the trust board, in collaboration with the Headteacher and the Collective Worship lead.

The school ensures that the guiding principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practices, including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- PSHE and RSE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community
- Collaborative work with other schools

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included on the school website.

Organisation, Planning and Delivery

The pattern of weekly worship will generally be as follows:

Monday	Whole school worship (usually led by the Headteacher)
Tuesday	Whole school worship (usually led by a member of school staff)
Wednesday	Class worship (usually led by class teachers)
Thursday	Whole school worship (usually led by the Vicar, or a member of the Senior Leadership Team)
Friday	Family celebration worship (usually led by the Headteacher)

The act of collective worship will typically take place in the morning, at the beginning of the school day. A celebration worship takes place on Friday mornings where parents and friends are invited to join us. Collective worship is led by members of staff, pupils, church leaders, and, occasionally, by visitors.

Worship lasts approximately 25 minutes each day.

Worship is planned around annual and termly themes – this is the responsibility of the Headteacher and the Collective Worship Lead. The planning of worship takes place in collaboration with the Vicar of Christ Church Parbold.

Regular '**Prayer and Praise**' worship gatherings (usually once per half term) create an opportunity for pupils to connect with God via the singing of hymns and worship music, interspersed with opportunities for prayer. Guest musicians often support the delivery of 'Prayer and Praise' gatherings. Occasionally, these take place outdoors.

The following annual services are planned and delivered by pupils (with support from their class teacher):

- Harvest service (Year 3)
- Remembrance service (Year 6)
- Christmas service (Year 5)
- Easter service (Year 4)
- Leavers' service (Year 6)

Parents and friends are invited to attend these.



Parbold Douglas CE Academy

Collective Worship Policy [Last updated: March 2023]

Responsibilities

The policy has been drawn up for approval by the trust board. The leadership of the Collective Worship Policy is the responsibility of the Headteacher and the Collective Worship Lead.

All members of staff are responsible for the delivery of collective worship in school.

The ongoing development of collective worship forms part of the School Development Plan. This is monitored and delivered by the senior leadership team.

The Collective Worship Lead will:

- Co-ordinate the planning of collective worship (in collaboration with the Headteacher and the Vicar);
- keep a record of worship themes and hymns / music;
- attend relevant training and development;
- advise on class or group worship and prayer;
- organise and provide appropriate resources to support the delivery of worship;
- arrange for visitors to take part in the delivery of worship;
- evaluate the quality of worship.

Staff development and training

Parents, pupils and adults are entitled to be led in worship by those who have a secure understanding of the nature of collective worship in a Church school context and by those who are professional in their approach to working with pupils and adults from all faiths and none. Therefore, it is a priority at Parbold Douglas to build up the expertise of staff, pupils, clergy and other adults in facilitating collective worship.

To do this, the school ensures that:

- Worship leaders, including clergy, access regular training, primarily through Blackburn Diocese Board of Education.
- Pupil worship leaders are supported, encouraged and resourced to contribute meaningful acts of worship.
- Worship leaders, including clergy, have access to high quality and current resources.
- Those facilitating worship should have the opportunity to receive feedback and to hear the outcome of any evaluation.
- Those from outside agencies and church groups invited into the school to facilitate worship are trained and properly briefed about the school, its pupil context and the school's vision. They are supported and monitored as part of the school's systems for the evaluation of the impact of worship.

Policy evaluation and review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the headteacher, the DSL and the DPO. Any changes to this policy will be communicated to relevant stakeholders.

Date of last review: March 2023

Date of next review: March 2024

