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## Collective Worship Policy

# Edenham C of E Primary School

Church schools serving their communities through excellence, exploration and encouragement within the love of God.

The diocese of Lincoln is called to faithful worship, confident discipleship and joyful service and our church schools bear witness to our belief that every child is made in the image of God and loved by Him. They were founded for the good of their local communities so that children can be educated through the values and stories of Christianity.

Policy Owner: Executive Head Teacher

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## The Nature of Collective Worship

Collective Worship stated in The Education Regulations 1994 Circular states “that worship should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power.” This is distinct to an assembly where information and news may be given out. It includes providing the opportunity for pupils to worship God to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.

Taking part in collective worship means more than passive attendance. The act of worship provided must be one to which pupils are capable of responding. This may be through being actively involved in the presentation of worship or through listening to, watching and joining in the worship offered.

Collective Worship has a designated time in the curriculum timetable under the 1988 Education Reform Act. It must be provided for all registered pupils and is in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus

As a Church of England School, we actively teach the Christian faith and values. Entitlement Collective Worship at Edenham Primary School will be provided in line with legal requirements. The Education Regulations 1994 Circular1/94 state that:

- All maintained schools must provide daily collective worship for all registered pupils, other than those who are withdrawn by their parents from these activities.
- Parents have a right of withdrawal wholly or partly from collective worship on religious grounds.
- Worship is to promote pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- The majority of acts of collective worship in any term must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- Worship should be appropriate to the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of pupils.

## Provision

All Academies are required to provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils either in the form of a single act of worship or as separate acts of worship for different age groups (1988 Education Reform Act).

## Aims of Collective Worship

As a Church of England School, we actively teach the Christian faith and values in the RE curriculum and, through Collective Worship. Collective Worship contributes directly to pupils’ learning and values of the school.

- To enable each child to explore our shared human experience and the questions of meaning and purpose which arise from our experiences.
- To enable pupils to know about and understand the beliefs and practices in religion. Among these Christianity has a particular place in our school.
- Furthering pupils’ personal growth and development of the beliefs and values of Christianity and other faiths.
- Pupils should develop the ability to explore and make meaning of their own religious experiences and those of others, and respond to those experiences.
- To provide children with opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We recognise the inter-relationship between pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and the role, which Collective Worship curriculum plays in some of these areas.

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- To develop the ability of pupils to think about, and develop for themselves, beliefs, values and concepts like celebration, the sacred, authority, religious belief and lifestyle through exploring fundamental questions of life.

Our School's Ethos statement reads:

We seek to serve our families by offering children a caring and rich learning environment in which they may flourish as individuals and become valuable members of our local, and the wider world, community.

Inspired by the life of Christ, and living in his love, we aim for each person to reach their full potential in body, mind, heart and spirit by working together - pupils, parents, staff, governors and all other friends of our school.

Our full Values, Vision and Aims are displayed on our website ([www.edenham.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.edenham.lincs.sch.uk)).

We aim to provide children with positive attitudes to others with opportunities for spiritual, moral, social, cultural development in order to encourage confidence and be able to play a part in community life.

There is consistently high quality of relationships between staff and pupils and amongst pupils themselves. The pupils demonstrate their care for each other, staff and the environment.

## Implementation

### Planning

Collective worship is planned carefully through discussion with the EHT, the Local Board, staff, pupils and sometimes other visitors to school. There is a thoughtfully-planned and varied programme for the daily acts of worship. It is usually planned with an annual overview, and then, in more detail prior to the beginning of each term.

It allows for the progressive development of themes and ideas on an annual cycle. Current affairs nationally, globally or within the school community occasionally take precedence over the theme where appropriate – for example, natural disasters, General Elections, the Olympics.

We also build in clear curriculum links wherever possible – including opportunities to explore beliefs of others, the context of our own Christian values and how we can apply them in life, what can we learn from Historical figures or role models etc. and, with the explicit teaching of RE (Religious Education).

The content of collective worship aims to encompass spiritual, moral, social and cultural areas of religion and is broadly of a Christian nature. This is done in a variety of ways, through stories, readings, discussion, art, music, and dramatic interpretations. Appropriate stimuli including music which pupils listen to on entry and exit, artefacts and pictures are used to capture and sustain the interest and involvement of pupils as well as entering and leaving in an appropriate manner. The content and format of collective worship are suited to the age, of pupils and serve to focus attention appropriately to create a respectful mood.

Pupils are encouraged to demonstrate respectful attitudes towards different faiths or cultures at all times, and are actively encouraged to make comparisons with teachings of faith with their own experiences.

Pupils are actively encouraged to make suggestions for worship and they will generally be invited to lead the worship they suggest, or make that request of the appropriate person (School Council/ Peer

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Mediators/ charity representatives/ members of the family etc). At least for two terms during the school year, pupils are asked to volunteer to lead worship around a central theme.

A variety of other sources also inform the planning and implementation of worship including:

- SEAL resources
- Twelve Baskets worship resources
- PSHE resources
- Internet resources
- Diocese of Lincoln or other Diocesan resources
- The list of themes are displayed for reference in the staff room.

### When and Where

Monday – whole school worship

Tuesday – whole school worship through Buddy Singing or pupil led worship

Wed – Key Stage worship, exploring themes in more depth

Thurs – Whole School Celebration

Friday – Class based prayer and Reflection

At least once per term, (6 times per year) we lead and participate in school-community worship, in church. Regular family services include;

- New starters
- Harvest
- All Saints
- Remembrance
- Advent
- Carols Service
- Epiphany
- Candlemas
- Ash Wednesday
- Holy Week
- Easter
- Rogation and Ascension
- Pentecost
- Whole school Eucharist Leavers' service

Daily worship usually takes place in the school hall or in classrooms. When the weather allows, we use the school field, gardens and forest school areas. We will also visit for shared worship:

- The village and castle estate
- Chapel at Grimsthorpe
- Stable chapel at Regional House
- Gardens at Regional House
- Witham Church

### Space and Time for Prayer and Reflection

Pupils will be taught about the purpose and value of prayer and reflection as part of the ongoing daily worship, and, in more depth, as part of rolling programme of CW planning.

Pupils are encouraged to participate in and lead prayer in school, at church, in other places, at lunchtimes, at the end of the day in each class, and, we will celebrate individual prayers if the children or parents share information about prayer at other times.

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There is nearly always an interactive prayer space in school for pupils to add their own prayers. The space for this is necessarily flexible due to restrictions on space in the school building.

Those who do not wish to pray are encouraged to listen and take the time for their own reflection and thought.

### Resources

Resources are available in both the old block and staff cloakroom in the new block. The RE subject leader has a list of resources.

### Exemption from Collective Worship

The 1944 and 1988 Education acts states “If a parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship or Religious Education given in the school, then the school must comply”. ERA 1988 Section V. Arrangements will be made for the safe supervision of pupils to whom the entitlement does not apply.

### Parish and Community links

The school has formed strong links with the local church community in the immediate parish and through partnership work with the Pathfinder group and Witham Hall school.

We have regular visits from our Bishops visitor, who carries out activities for example such as, leading Collective Worship, visiting classes, supporting school trips, particularly those to church School events, supporting Y5/6 Bible study sessions and running our school Gardening Club.

The school community share in the planning and leading of church/ school events, and participate in events in support of Steam Action (a local support groups for elderly residents of the parish).

### Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Executive Head Teacher is directly responsible for the management of daily acts of collective worship in this school: however, the staff are responsible for ensuring it supports the school’s ethos and Christian beliefs – by attendance at worship and family services regularly, by leading worship themselves or enabling pupils to lead worship effectively.

Governors, senior staff monitor and review worship together, and pupils, staff and parents are regularly encouraged to feedback on worship they have shared in or led. This can be by email, verbally, on the CW log sheets and other ways – such as comments on the school’s Twitter account or Tapestry.

This policy was compiled using the following documents for guidance:

- The Education Regulations 1994 Circular1/94
- Lincolnshire County Council SACRE –Collective Worship in Community Primary Schools, Guidance and advice
- Lincolnshire Syllabus for RE

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