

# Collective Worship Policy

## Furneux Pelham C of E Primary School



Roots to grow,  
Wings to soar

**Approved by:** Curriculum and Pupil Welfare  
Committee

**Date:** February 2024

**Next review due by:** February 2026

## **Roots to grow, Wings to soar**

Our vision is to open our pupils' eyes to the world around them - enabling them to grow secure **roots** in their village school and community, whilst giving them the knowledge and skills and to succeed in the wider world. Pupils will love learning and be driven to achieve – they will believe that they can be the best versions of themselves, with no limits. Our pupils will be resilient individuals who appreciate the world and God's gifts within it. They will treat God's gifts with love and care and will place great value upon people and their difference, and the world both near and far. The wings of faith support us to soar freely and flourish now, and in the future.

Our vision is based upon the Parable of the Mustard Seed Matthew 13: 31-32

*"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." Matthew 13:31-32*

The Furneux Pelham School community aim to nurture the smallest of seeds, who then go on to soar out into the world and flourish.

### **Rationale for Collective Worship**

At Furneux Pelham School, worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring and deepening understanding of the school's vision. Driven by a set of Christian values, it is planned so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and exploring the wonders of the wider world. At Furneux Pelham School, collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish. Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities for spiritual growth are given through reflections on the beauty, joy and pain of the world. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar and that of other faiths. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

### **The legal context**

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 anytime 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. Worship in Furneux Pelham School should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governing body of the school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community, in consultation with the Headteacher.

## Guiding Principles

At Furneux Pelham School we understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. We believe that worship is:

- ❖ A response to things of worth
- ❖ A recognition of and response to the spiritual dimensions of human experience
- ❖ A celebration of love for God by Christian believers
- ❖ An expression of praise and gratitude, of awe and wonder, and of love and compassion

Worship at Furneux Pelham School enables all members of our school community, of all faiths and none, to thrive spiritually and reflect deeply within the aims of our Christian vision. Christian values guide our thinking and behaviour. They underpin and combine with worship to ensure that, socially and morally, pupils are enabled to flourish. Acts of collective worship will be a window into the wider world for our pupils.

Collective worship in Furneux Pelham School aims to:

- Hold a pivotal place in the life of the school and 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 a positive 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.
- 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 multisensory foci and introduce them to some well-known Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- 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.
- Allow children an opportunity to reflect on their own experience and the experience of others.
- Promote the spiritual, moral social and cultural development of the child.
- Reflect on universal aspects of experience - awe, mystery, sense of transience, personal worth, limitations, loss, grief and death.

- Share emotions such as love, joy, hope, friendship, fear, tolerance, understanding, forgiveness and reverence.
- Explore Christian values and their consequences for people's lives.
- Give time to celebrate and give thanks for the beauty of life and living.
- Recognise and respect that people hold different beliefs and commitments.
- Provide the opportunity to celebrate the values and achievements of the school community.
- Allow time to reflect on success and failure and to encourage expressions of determination to always do one's best.
- Create an atmosphere congenial to silent reflection, inner response and active participation.
- Encourage children to demonstrate respect for those of all faiths and for those who identify with no specific religious faith.
- Open the children's eyes to the wider world by celebrating its diversity and becoming knowledgeable about its exemplification of our values.

## **Values**

Through our acts of worship, children should come to a greater understanding of those principles, values and characteristics displayed by Jesus throughout His ministry and teaching and by His own example. Recognised by Christians as integral to their faith, these are nevertheless universally esteemed by people of any faith or none as values by which to live a good life. These Values provide all our children and indeed our whole school community, with a moral code by which to live and a firm foundation and standard against which to evaluate the experiences of life.

These Values include: Generosity, Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness, Friendship, Respect, Thankfulness, Trust, Perseverance, Justice, Service and Truthfulness, Wisdom, Dignity, Community, Hope, Joy and Peace- Taught using Roots and Fruits Resources.

Selecting one for each half term, these Values become the focus and theme for our worship, whether clergy or school led and underpin all relationships (including behaviour management) in school.

## **Planning Collective Worship**

Our values form the focus of each half term and are the foundation for the planning of Collective Worship. Roots and Fruits, which incorporates aspects of our PSHE SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship) scheme and other relevant materials are used to support this work. Collective Worship is planned on a termly basis by the Headteacher in collaboration with the teaching staff. The Headteacher will produce a half-termly Worship Plan including an indication of the subject focus of each Collective Worship experience. Whilst these Worship times may focus on themes such as prayer, the life of Jesus, and the Church's seasons, they will, at other times, teach a Biblical example of the Value that is currently the focus e.g. The Story of the Good Samaritan may be used to teach Compassion.

In addition to the focused value, collective worship drives courageous advocacy by using a Votes for Schools subscription. This resource develops children's understanding of the wider world and its diversity of people, events and experiences. This acts as inspiration for pupils to express their views and into taking social action. When appropriate, Collective Worship will also engage with any

event, local, national or world, of which the children may be aware, and offer appropriate worship in response. There is room for spontaneity.

The Vicar or, in their absence, a member Red Balloon Foundation will lead Collective Worship on a regular basis, once every two weeks, on a Thursday. From time to time it may be suitable for visitors representing charities, organisations or projects to lead, or contribute to Collective Worship.

The right atmosphere is crucial to the quality of the worship. We plan the time so that there is variety in method and content, allowing opportunity for quiet and personal reflection and worship.

Our Collective Worship follows a set pattern:

Monday	A leading Values session - led by headteacher
Tuesday	Class assembly - values follow-up with Reflective Space follow-up activities set – Led by class teachers
Wednesday	Courageous advocacy, social action or worldviews focus – led by headteacher or pupil action groups
Thursday	Values follow-up - led by classteachers, pupils action groups or visiting clergy
Friday	See How We Soar Celebration Collective Worship – where special work and awards are celebrated.

Collective Worship sessions follow a four-part model with liturgical greetings and the format “Gathering, Engaging, Responding, Sending” (GERS) which is the outline format for any Church of England Service of the Word.

Year 6 Worship Monitors prepare the hall for worship. This includes preparing the worship table which provides a focus for the following worship. This table has a coloured runner to reflect the seasons of the church year, a Bible, a candle and a cross. At the start of each act of worship the candle is lit and a greeting said. The candle is extinguished at the end by a child. Both are accompanied by special songs.

The whole school, including parents, other relatives and friends join in Collective Worship times at St. Mary the Virgin Church to celebrate the Church’s main festivals. Parents, family and friends are welcome to weekly See How We Soar Collective Worship session, which is led by Pelham Praise.

### **Pupil Leadership of Worship**

Our pupil worship group – Pelham Praise – is selected from pupils in years 3-6. Members volunteer for the role and make an application through letter to the headteacher. Once part of the group, pupils remain in the group unless they request to leave.

The pupil worship group lead assemblies on a regular basis, including our weekly See How We Soar celebration assembly. The theme of the worship matches the current value or a relevant celebration / event. The children are given some guidance from a member of staff but the planning and delivering is all led by the children. Members of the local clergy meet with the Pelham Praise group on a half-termly basis for a period of reflection and discussion about worship, the purpose of worship and the responsibility that goes with the leadership of worship. In addition, pupils from

Pelham Praise assist with the leadership of worship both within school and in the church. They lead prayers and singing, read Bible extracts and support other elements of the worship, as appropriate.

### **The Right of Withdrawal**

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 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 that the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts.

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

### **Equal Opportunities:**

Furneux Pelham School strives to ensure that all children have the best possible opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge regardless of any protected characteristic. Children from all groups of learners will have equal access to collective worship. Where children are removed from Religious Worship, due to personal belief, alternative, equally high-quality provision is provided to allow reflection.

### **Evaluation**

At Furneux Pelham we evaluate our acts of worship by considering some of the following:

- ❖ Involvement, enjoyment, attention and reaction of those attending
- ❖ The growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
- ❖ Positive reaction to shared experiences
- ❖ An atmosphere that matches the theme
- ❖ The impact that the worship has had and the difference it has made to individuals outside of the act of worship
- ❖ The extent to which the act of worship explores and links with the school's vision

Governors are encouraged to join us for acts of worship in school and in the parish church. On these occasions they often write a report commenting on some of the above for the information of other Governors. They also seek the views of parents and pupils through the use of pupil voice and questionnaires. The effectiveness of worship at Furneux Pelham is also evaluated when the Church School self-evaluation document is reviewed

## Appendix

### Values

Two year cycle based on Roots and Fruits publication and website [Imaginer].

<u>Year</u>	<u>Autumn 1</u>	<u>Autumn 2</u>	<u>Spring 1</u>	<u>Spring 2</u>	<u>Summer 1</u>	<u>Summer 2</u>
<u>2023-24</u>	Generosity	Compassion	Courage	Forgiveness	Friendship	Respect
<u>2024-25</u>	Thankfulness	Trust	Perseverance	Justice	Service	Truthfulness

Collective worship and class reflection areas will follow the value theme for that half term.