

**ROBERT PIGGOTT CofE SCHOOLS**  
Grace, Courage, Friendship

**Our School Vision**

Our vision is rooted in the understanding that 'A tree is known by its fruits.' (Matthew 12:33)  
We seek to live this through our values of grace, courage and friendship.  
We are committed to nurturing our children to flourish in mind, body and spirit,  
enabling them to become confident, creative and resilient learners  
who contribute positively to our local and global community.

**COLLECTIVE WORKSHOP POLICY**



**Committee Responsible: Personnel**

**Date of Review: November 2024**

**Next Review: November 2026**

**Signed: Senior Leadership Team – Sarah Pontet**

**Signed: Headteacher – Vanessa O’Byrne**

# ROBERT PIGGOTT CofE SCHOOLS

## Grace, Courage, Friendship

### Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life of our school. Worship offers the children and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian ethos. It reflects our school vision and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

**“A tree is known by its’ fruits” Matthew 12:33**

Our worship has 3 underlying principles:

1. It is inclusive and contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils
2. It is invitational and respects the dignity of all participants
3. It is inspiring and combines a range of experiences alongside

Our collective worship provides the pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- celebrate Christian seasons and festivals
- celebrate our school values associated with our vision
- celebrate pupils’ and adults’ achievements
- experience prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer
- create a reflective approach to life including the exploration of deep questions
- develop as a community centred on our clear and distinctive Christian vision
- experience a variety of styles of worship
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship
- feel safe and affirmed
- worship God on their own terms.

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 on the teachings of Jesus

### Planning Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship which will include a prayer and may take many forms. For example, joining together through music, song, dance, drama, words of praise, prayers, readings and teachings, in listening, in thoughtful silence, in meditation, in contemplation of icons and symbols and in the lighting of candles.

We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worshiptime is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. The words we use invite but do not coerce children to participate. We address our prayers to Jesus and God reflecting the practices of the Church of England. Children are encouraged to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship time.

We review worship through regular discussion with the whole school community including governors and the local clergy and our evaluations are fed into planning for future worship.

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### **The pattern of our Collective Worship**

We encourage children to become actively involved in Collective Worship. This may involve setting up, planning, leading prayers, choosing worship songs etc.

The Executive Headteacher, Assistant Head teachers, other members of staff or children themselves may conduct collective worship. Members of the local clergy visit school on a regular basis and strengthen the links between school and church. Other visitors are welcomed warmly.

Our worship follows themes in the following areas each term and is linked to the RE Unit of Work and the values of the school. We use "Roots and Fruits" to help us plan sequences of worship.

- Our school values of Grace, Courage and Friendship
- Festivals of the Church calendar
- Praise, Psalms and Prayer
- Creation
- Bible stories
- Stories and themes from Judaism and other world faiths
- Symbolism
- Organisations inspired by faith
- Themes reflecting children's experience and emotions
- Celebrations

We invite parents and other family members to collective worship on a regular basis e.g. Harvest, Christingle, Easter and end of year as well as to class collective worships when the children plan and lead the whole school in worship.

We usually come together in worship in our school hall, but for some special occasions we hold services St Mary's Church, in the school grounds or at Mumbery Field.

### **Collaboration**

The Infant and Junior schools work together to provide consistent and relevant Collective Worship. The schools work from a joint Collective Worship framework which includes ideas for PSHE within the class worship sessions. The schools collaborate on special projects, combining RE and CW.

### **Right of Withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The staff are always happy to spend time with parents describing our approach and showing them records of the range of experiences we offer.