

Lanchester E.P. (Cont.) Primary School

*A Caring Community
Where All Can Flourish!*



Collective Worship Policy

The policy is devised to meet the needs of the learners at Lanchester Endowed Parochial Controlled Church of England Primary School, conscious of the Christian foundation of our school and the need for Collective Worship to be relevant and engaging for all at Lanchester E.P.

School's theologically-rooted Christian Vision

'A Caring Community where all can flourish.'

At Lanchester Endowed Parochial (Controlled) Primary School, our Christian vision is based on the parable of the sower in Luke's gospel:

'Through God's love, we are the rich soil where roots grow and seeds flourish'. Luke 8: 4-15

We aim to be the rich soil in which our children can develop their roots and grow and flourish to be the best they can be. Our aim is to create an environment in which all our children are nurtured in a caring community so they can grow to fulfil their own potential as unique individuals. Every child matters and every success is celebrated. Our aim is to ensure children enjoy their time with us and grow to fulfil their own potential with their individuality celebrated.

Our vision is aligned with the Church of England's own vision for education as we define flourishing in terms of Jesus promise of 'life in all its fullness'. (John 10:10)

As a Church of England Controlled school, we aim to build a community clearly based on our core Christian values of ***love, hope, joy, kindness and trust***. These Christian values are embedded in all areas of school life. We have excellent partnerships between home, school and the church which help us develop the whole child and prepare them for life.

The Lanchester EP family is special and we aim for all our members to be happy, active learners and to develop ideas, independence and a vision of what they want to achieve. Laughter, friendship, opportunities, mutual respect and learning are central to everything we do. As a result, our children thrive and have the confidence to achieve both their personal and academic best because they feel safe, secure and able to take risks. The unique value of each individual is celebrated.

We want our children to leave us as good citizens, feeling fulfilled, challenged and inspired, with a solid Christian foundation. We hope every child takes with them very happy and memorable memories of their time at Lanchester E.P. School. We really are ***'A Caring Community Where All Can Flourish'.***

Introduction

At Lanchester Endowed Parochial Church of England Primary School, we seek to live out the Christian values which are at the heart of our school. Our constant and relentless drive is that all members of our school community should flourish.

This policy describes our values and philosophy in relation to meeting the needs of all learners at Lanchester E.P. School. It is designed to describe how the school intends to meet the needs of learners of all ages, groups and abilities.

Rationale

Collective Worship is central to life at Lanchester E.P. School and is underpinned by our vision of 'A Caring Community Where All Can Flourish...' We encourage all members of our school community to flourish by looking in at themselves, looking out towards others and looking up towards God and/or something beyond the physical. We reflect on how each worship session will help us to achieve this by putting our beliefs into action to create change for ourselves and others. At Lanchester, we recognise the key part worship can play in providing members of our school community with a firm foundation of values, beliefs and social conscience. This is an inherent part of the whole school ethos and is underpinned through daily acts of

worship where we seek to explore life's big questions about spirituality and faith. Our collective worship times are fully inclusive and all children are encouraged to think and reflect on the theme being conveyed in a way that is meaningful for them.

Aims and Objectives

Our central aims of Collective Worship are:

- To be inclusive, invitational and inspiring.
- To develop spiritually as a whole school community and as individuals.
- To provide opportunities to experience, reflect on and respond to our world and our place in it by looking in, looking out and looking up.
- To be consistent with the faith and practice of the Anglican Church by following the liturgical year and being distinctly Christian.
- To provide our pupils with regular opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer.
- To explore big questions about spirituality and faith.
- To explore the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and think about how they are relevant in our life as a school.
- To promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To celebrate the worth every member of this school community including the sharing our gifts and talents with others.
- To ensure that our vision and ethos are central to the life of the school and have a real and meaningful impact on all our lives.
- To help children develop respect and understanding of the nature and language of Anglican Christian worship.
- To help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others.
- To create in all a sense of belonging.
- To provide children with opportunities to put their faith into action.

Organisation

Collective Worship takes place every day - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Each half term there is a specific focus. This could be linked to a religious festival such as Christmas or an aspect of Christian teaching such as prayer and will always be linked to our school vision, encouraging all members of our school community 'to flourish' by looking in at themselves, out at the world and others and up towards God and or something bigger than themselves.

At the start of each week the children are asked to consider a 'big question' linked to our theme.

Our worship is organised as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Led Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher. This will focus on the theme for the week.	Led by Revd Lesley. This will focus on the theme for the week.	Led by Worship Leaders followed by Singing Worship. Worship Leaders will focus on the theme for the week. Singing Worship is led by our Music Teacher/Head Teacher.	Open the Book. This is Led by the Open the Book Team and follows their order of Bible Stories.	Flourishing Friday Worship. Children receive recognition for flourishing in different areas that week and have an opportunity for reflection.

Every worship session begins in the same way by focusing on the worship table with the following Call and Response:

Leader: The Lord is Here.

Response: His Spirit is With Us.

Leader: We light a candle.

Response: To Remember... Jesus is the Light of the World.

We also remind the children that when we take out the the Bible, we think about God the Father.

We take out the cross and think about God the son, Jesus.

We light the candle and think about God, the Holy Spirit.

Worship includes a time of singing, a time of reflection and a time of prayer.

Every worship session ends with the words:

Leader: Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord.

Response: In the name of Jesus, Amen.

In addition, Collective Worship currently takes place in All Saints' Church and the Methodist Church to mark key Christian Festivals such as, Harvest, Easter and Christmas.

The Collective Worship Lead is responsible for the yearly overview and themes, creating the rota and sharing it with staff and the day to day organisation of collective worship, resource provision and meeting any identified training needs.

Our weekly themes reflect the Anglican nature of our school and introduce the children to aspects of Anglican practice and faith. We ensure festivals from all Faiths are referenced at appropriate times and national/international issues to be used as a basis for consideration in order to develop our understanding of cultural diversity.

We recognise the difference between collective worship and 'assembly' in that collective worship is always distinctly Christian in its context and offers opportunities for children to worship God, pray and reflect and to consider ways to live out our school values in their daily lives. It also contributes significantly to the life and wellbeing of the school. Teachers are encouraged to link their Mindful Moment sessions to the whole

school themes or current topical issues (i.e. praying for other countries, world leaders, their area or their town)

Equal Opportunities

We endeavour to ensure that Collective Worship offers equal opportunities to all as set out in the school's Equalities Policy. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from any act of worship within the school and are able to do so in writing to the Head teacher. Children who are withdrawn are supervised with appropriate activities to support their wellbeing.

Monitoring and Review

The Worship Leader is responsible for monitoring the quality of Collective Worship in school. They are also responsible for supporting colleagues in the planning and delivery of Collective Worship and for providing a strategic lead and direction. All adults attend the daily acts of worship and supports a staff member in leading the Worship Leaders (a group of children from Year 6) who play an active role in planning worship for the school. The Collective Worship Leader, Worship Leaders and children from each class evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the Collective Worship. The children are encouraged to fill in a brief review of collective worship across the school so their views can be incorporated in future planning.

The school has a named Governor responsible for monitoring our foundation as a Church of England school, Collective Worship – Reverend Lesley Sutherland. The Collective Worship leader meets with Reverend Lesley on a regular basis and as part of the self-review cycle in our school.

Legal Framework and the Right of withdrawal

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils, which takes account of their age and aptitude. (Education Reform Act 1988). We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the Collective Worship. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

Policy to be Reviewed: October 2025