

# Elmley Castle C.E. First School

*A Little Piece of Heaven on Earth*

**Executive Headteacher** Mr Phil Croke  
**Head of School** Mrs Nadia Underwood  
Main Street, Elmley Castle, WR10 3HS  
Telephone: 01386 710279  
Email: [office@elmleycastle.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@elmleycastle.worcs.sch.uk)

## Collective Worship Policy 2021

<b>Approved by:</b>	The Full Governing Body	<b>Date:</b> March 2021
<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	March 2021	
<b>Next review due by:</b>	March 2022	Produced by Nadia Underwood

### *The Vision for our School*

**‘ May God give you heaven’s dew and Earth’s richness.’ Genesis 27:28.**

### *A Little Piece of Heaven on Earth*

**‘As a community we grow and flourish together. Through our core values, we seek a lifelong love of learning, pursuing wisdom and excellence so everyone achieves their best. We create opportunities to explore our own sense of spirituality and encourage all to live with thankful, forgiving hearts, respecting the preciousness of our world.’**



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## Collective Worship Policy

### 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 Vision and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

### Our School Vision and Values

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**‘As a community we grow and flourish together. Through our core values, we seek a lifelong love of learning, pursuing wisdom and excellence so everyone achieves their best. We create opportunities to explore our own sense of spirituality and encourage all to live with thankful, forgiving hearts, respecting the preciousness of our world.’**

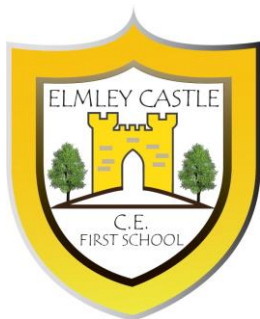
***Our Core Values: Thankfulness, Compassion, Respect, Forgiveness, Generosity and Perseverance.***

*‘May God give you Heaven's dew and Earth's richness’. Genesis 27:28*

Pupils, staff and parents of all faiths, or none, are welcome to worship. Our school are faith communities that celebrate religious, cultural and ethnic diversity and encourage dialogue and understanding or people of no faith. We believe that we can all learn from each other and that collective worship is an educational entitlement for all. In worship we create the opportunity to explore the place of faith in each of our lives, and in the communities in which we live. This worship can occur at various times of day and with a mixture of grouping of pupils. Through regular acts of worship our school has the opportunity of offering thanksgiving and praise to God through a range of liturgical patterns which may include the Eucharist.

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

- worship God;
- experience a variety of styles of worship;
- celebrate:
  - Christian festivals;
  - school values;
  - achievements;
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer;



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- develop a reflective approach to life and reflect on Christian values
- develop as a community based in Christian values;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship;
- feel safe and affirmed.

**At times worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum<sup>3</sup> and in particular will:**

- nurture spiritual growth;
- consider moral issues in a Christian context and to;
- Enhance social understanding;
- explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage and those of others.

## **The Pattern of Collective Worship**

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings in the school hall, classrooms and on occasions outside.

We follow the seasons of the Church year and within this significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost and other days such as Candlemas are celebrated occasionally.

Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

## **Leading worship**

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church Community Children are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

Monday	Whole school led by Mrs. Underwood (Head of School) – setting the theme for the week
Tuesday	Whole school, visitor led (Vicar, church wardens) or Led by the children.
Wednesday	Whole school, led by Mrs Underwood - singing assembly, using songs linked to the theme as an alternative way to praise God
Thursday	Whole school, led by Class Teacher – continuation of the theme



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Friday	Celebration worship - whole school, led by Mrs. Underwood, with the support of all the children and staff, parents welcome
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## Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in Worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme, and the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils. Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as dance and drama alongside traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship and is invitational. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

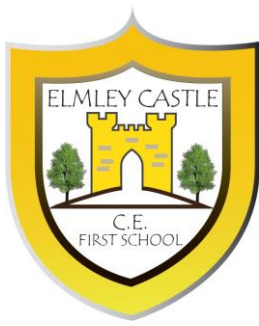
Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection. and our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

## Collective worship will:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and children
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the students
- have a dedicated focus which signifies what is being reflected upon.
- provide a dedicated opportunity for students to reflect/respond to the input

## Acts of worship often include and ritual aspects these are a means of enabling worship and include:

- stories and readings
- songs, hymns and music
- dance and drama
- prayer, meditations
- creative silence
- sacred/secular readings
- artifacts and natural materials
- children's contributions



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## **Educational**

Our acts of collective worship provide wider opportunities to:

- reflect the aims of the school, and foster wide ownership of our core values ;
- assist learners to have increased awareness and to reflect upon fundamental issues about life;
- enhance, complement and extend curricular work;
- develop learners' understanding of the Christian faith and Anglican practice through appropriate Biblical and liturgical content;
- identify opportunities for Christian celebration which can be associated with other school events;
- Learn about and from other religions and cultures
- this will include scope to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils.
- Develop their understanding of core British values.

## **A legal note**

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day;

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance, we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the Head of School.