



*Rooted in the Christian faith and embracing all within the community, we encourage, enrich and enable everyone to be the best they can be.*

## **Riddlesden St. Mary's C of E Primary School**

# Collective Worship Policy

Date policy last reviewed: New in September 2026

Signed by:

\_\_\_\_\_ Headteacher

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair of governors

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Statement of intent:**

At Riddlesden St. Mary's C of E Primary School, we see the value in collective worship and adhere to our statutory duty by providing 20 minutes of collective worship a day. This time will enable pupils to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues.

The act of daily collective worship will be of a broadly Christian character; however, other faiths and cultures will be represented.

Collective worship provides the opportunity for the school to meet together in a variety of contexts and enables participating pupils and staff to consider events of the world and appreciate the rich tapestry of human experience and existence.

This policy outlines how the school implements collective worship within our daily routines, including the aims of collective worship and how pupils can be withdrawn.

## 1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- The Education Reform Act 1988
- The Education Act 1993
- DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship'

## 2. Definition of collective worship

For the purpose of this policy, **“collective worship”** is an act which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities.

Collective Worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring. Collective worship in Church of England schools must recognise the collectivity of all participants, so must not assume, that all have the same beliefs and values.

All acts of worship must therefore be, inclusive, invitational and inspiring. In a Church of England school, collective worship is: 'Invitational, offering everyone the opportunity to engage in the act of worship, whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity:

'Inspiring and creative, impacting the whole community and motivating them into action.'

'Inclusive, where all are included, have a voice and are listened to.'

'A valued part of the culture of the school, breathing life into every aspect of the school day.'

## 3. Aims of collective worship

Collective worship aims to:

- Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
- Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered.
- Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to discussions on key themes and topics, e.g. morality.
- Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection.
- Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual's life stance, whether religious or not.
- Promote a common ethos and shared values.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.

## 4. Organisation and planning

The school will implement collective worship in line with advice given by the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

Every pupil will participate in the act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn in line with section 6 of this policy.

Worship will broadly be of a Christian character.

The headteacher is responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship in discussion with the governing board, ensuring progression from each session is carried on to the next, as well as to ensure that learning is practically applied by pupils to their lives inside and outside of school. The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.

The act of worship will be held for 20 minutes daily in the school hall. Early Years collectively worship through class carpet sessions and within provision during Autumn 1, before joining the rest of the school for collective worship in the school hall from Autumn 2 onwards.

Each worship held will have a theme relevant to current affairs and topics agreed by the headteacher and governing board:



All classes are expected to have their own prayer book, enabling some pupils to share their prayers during collective worship.

Class worship follows this structure:



- Welcome blessing  
*Gathering invite: We gather as St. Mary's Family*  
*Response: To Celebrate our beliefs, our world and each other.*
- Story – Listen
- Learn and Respond
- Reflection
- School Prayer  
*Dear God*  
*Come be with us today*  
*Fill our hearts with joy*  
*Fill our minds with learning*  
*Fill our classrooms with respect*  
*Fill our lessons with challenge*  
*Fill our friendships with trust*  
*Fill our school with peace*  
*Amen*
- Closing blessing  
*Lead: Love is patient and kind*  
*All: Love never gives up; and its faith, hope and patience never fail.*  
*Lead: Now go and show that love to everyone.*

Our whole school song is 'You'll never walk alone' covered by Astrea  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mms2iJzveGE>

**Our whole school prayer is:**

Dear God,  
Come be with us today  
Fill our hearts with joy  
Fill our minds with learning  
Fill our classrooms with respect  
Fill our lessons with challenge  
Fill our friendships with trust  
Fill our school with peace  
Amen

Visitor worships are an integral weekly part of the collective worship offer. Our local vicar and curate deliver these sessions that are of Christian character. The school may invite additional visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, in accordance with the timetabled theme.

## **5. Implementation**

The school will promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:

- Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
- Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using artefacts (where appropriate), secular stories, resources, music, art, drama, and guest speakers to engage pupils' interest.
- Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals and shared or written prayers.

The school will take into account pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme.

The school will arrange for additional adults to assist pupils with SEND if the need arises, in accordance with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy.

## **6. Right to withdraw**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so.

Parents will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the pupil taking part in.
- The practical implications of their withdrawal.
- Whether the parent will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.

Alternative arrangements will be put in place for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Alternative arrangements may involve religious worship relevant to their particular faith or denomination provided that:

- The effect of the alternative provision would not replace the denominational collective worship with that of the statutory, non-denominational worship.
- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.

The alternative arrangements will be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.

## **7. Monitoring and review**

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the headteacher in agreement with the governing board.

This policy will be evaluated in accordance with feedback from questionnaires and class discussions.

Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.

The scheduled review date for this policy is **September 2027.**