



A School Partnership In Rural England

Motto : ‘ **We Aspire to Inspire** ’

**Our Values** – using the initials of the names of the schools.

**K** – Kindness

**U** – Understanding

**P** – Patience

**H** – Honesty

**L** – Love

**B** – Boldness

**Collective Worship Policy for:  
Leeds and Broomfield C of E Primary School  
Ulcombe C of E Primary School**

Document History

Date written: May 2015, Date approved: July 2015

Reviewed by Executive Headteacher and Head of School, Re-approved by Executive Headteacher January 2018

Approval noted by Federation Governing Body 23 January 2018

Reviewed by EHT January 2020. Approval noted at Federation GB 14 January 2020

Date for Review: *This policy is reviewed every three years or when updated information from the Diocese provides a significant change*

*The term ‘school’ refers to the schools in the ASPIRE Federation: Kingswood Primary, Ulcombe CE Primary, Platts Heath Primary and Leeds and Broomfield CE Primary. The term may refer to them jointly or individually.*

## Our Vision

“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”.

William Temple (1881-1894)

### ***At Leeds and Broomfield the Christian Values are-***

Selflessness, Generosity, Empathy, Forgiveness, Curiosity, Honesty

### **At Ulcombe the Christian Values are:**

Forgiveness, Thankfulness, Trust, Friendship, Endurance and Compassion

### ***In both schools we aim to have -***

- a warm atmosphere
- a rich curriculum
- pupils who love to learn and who live our Christian values

## Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctive Christian character of our school, reaffirms our Christian values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England as well as other Christian traditions, and recognizes and follows the Church's liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

## Aims

Collective worship at Leeds and Broomfield is in line with the school's Trust Deed and supports the school's Mission Statement, by providing opportunities for students and staff:

- to explore a relationship with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- to reflect on our explicit Christian values
- to develop personal spirituality especially through prayer, and also through a range of other experiences
- to be engaged in an exploration of the relevance and application of the Christian faith
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared Christian values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it.

## The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following may be described as shared Christian elements of collective worship:

- Using the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Saints Days
- Learning and saying Christian prayers from a number of sources, for example, the Lord's Prayer
- Using simple Anglican (or Methodist) liturgy at levels appropriate to students'/pupils' age
- Singing a wide variety of Christian hymns and songs
- Experiencing Christian symbolism in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles
- Using prayer, silence and reflection
- Celebrating the Eucharist/Holy Communion

## Policy Provision

### Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement. In line with the statutory requirement, a Christian act of collective worship is provided for all pupils every day. All teaching staff attend all acts of collective worship. Time allocated to collective worship is not part of curriculum time.

There is an act of Collective worship every day where children have the opportunity to:

#### Gather

- ✚ We gather together and greet each other
- ✚ We all come to play a part in this community
- ✚ We are preparing to meet God

#### Engage

- ✚ We engage with the big things and the little things in life
- ✚ We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible
- ✚ We are listening for God's message for us

#### Respond

- ✚ We respond to what we have heard and seen
- ✚ We respond together as individuals
- ✚ We are given the opportunity to worship God

#### Send

- ✚ We are sent out to love and serve one another and to make a difference in the world
- ✚ We are all dismissed with God's blessing

At Leeds and Broomfield this takes place on the following days and times:

#### **Monday/Tuesday/Thursday**

10.15am to 10.30am in the school hall – delivered by Head of School, Class Teachers, Teaching Assistants and children

#### **Wednesday**

1.20-1.45pm – in the school hall currently led by Reverend Steve who links his sermon to the current collective worship themes, an aspect of church worship such as Baptism or Christian season.

Once a term The Family Trust, a local Christian organisation, also deliver this collective worship session, focusing on a particular parable or aspect of the season such as Christmas or Easter.

When Reverend Steve is unavailable this collective worship session becomes an opportunity for praise and reflection where children learn new and unfamiliar hymns or enjoy singing much loved familiar ones. It is recognised that it is important to take time to learn to worship through songs and music as part of the act of worship at times when the school comes together. This musical opportunity also includes time to follow the collective worship process of Gather, Engage, Respond and Send.

#### **Friday**

2.45-3.10pm – Celebration assembly linked to collective worship led by Head of school or senior teacher with parents and carers invited to attend. This time together gives an opportunity to show how

much the school community values the achievements of its members. This is also the time when all can join together in worship and say our school prayer together.

In all collective worship there is evidence of use of varying types of worship experiences through prayer, music, silence, Bible reading, story, dance, puppets, DVD and similar clips from internet sites such as You Tube. Children also present and act out key aspects of the identified themes at times during collective worship sessions.

Hall displays link closely to the Christian aspects discussed in collective worship sessions and/or the Christian values of the school. These include work completed by the children, pictures, artefacts and references to bible stories and parables.

At Ulcombe this takes place on the following days and times:

**Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday**

2.50pm – 3.10pm in the school hall – delivered by Head of School, Class Teachers, Teaching Assistants and children

**Thursday**

10.00-10.20am – in the school hall currently led the Len Valley worship team who link their sermon to the current collective worship themes, an aspect of church worship such as Baptism or Christian season.

Once a term The Family Trust, a local Christian organisation, also deliver this collective worship session, focusing on a particular parable or aspect of the season such as Christmas or Easter.

**Friday**

2.45-3.10pm – Celebration assembly linked to collective worship led by Head of school or senior teacher with parents and carers invited to attend. This time together gives an opportunity to show how much the school community values the achievements of its members. This is also the time when all can join together in worship and say our school prayer together.

**Church and Parish links**

The priest in charge of Leeds and Hollingbourne conducts worship once weekly on a Wednesday at Leeds and Broomfield school. He and the Co-ordinator share frequent contact regarding the synchronisation of themes and topics. At Ulcombe the ministry from the local benefice lead worship weekly on a Thursday.

In both schools worship is held in church during the year. Parents are invited to participate in the Leavers' service as well as Easter, Christmas and Harvest services. The children, staff and governors also contribute to the monthly Parish Magazine and Parish council meetings as requested.

The schools are a friend of Canterbury Cathedral and often takes part in their Cathedral Days. The school adopts regular charities each year such as children in Need and Action Aid and makes donations to charitable organisations when appropriate.

The Family Trust visits the schools once a term to conduct an assembly using visual, auditory and kinaesthetic means to deliver their leaving worship.

**Planning and Co-ordination**

Worship is planned on a termly basis based on the collective worship plans from the Diocese of Canterbury and Rochester and these will include aspects of the school's Christian Values as appropriate.

The RE Co-ordinator is responsible for medium term planning, recording, monitoring and maintaining resources.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Worship is monitored periodically and feedback is given to staff as soon as possible after the monitoring session. Feedback refers to the good practice delivered during the collective worship sessions and further areas for development. It also helps identify any possible CPD requirements of staff.

### **Resources and Budgeting**

Resourcing and budgeting for collective worship is an additional aspect of the KULB school improvement plan. The RE Co-ordinator monitors provision of music, visual focus, books and resources.

### **Self-evaluation and Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)**

School Self-evaluation is completed on the SIAMS Self-evaluation forms provided by the Diocese. Worship is inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act (SIAMS).

### **Parental Withdrawal**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, our headteacher would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents. Students not attending collective worship sessions will have the opportunity to read or complete work in their own classrooms under the supervision of a teaching assistant.

**Inviting Visitors to lead collective worship**

When briefing visitors for school worship, make sure you tell them:

- who exactly will attend, whether it will be the whole school or a section of it, and if so, which section
- what the school's aims, ethos and policies are
- how long the speaker is expected to talk for (10 – 12 minutes)
- the current assembly theme and context for the speaker - what has already been done and what will be done later in the term
- how pupils and staff are normally involved in collective worship
- what resources or hardware are available to them, should they so wish
- exactly how much their contribution will be - is it just the talk or will they be asked to choose the hymn and lead the prayers

and remember to:

- give them plenty of notice - don't assume that a visitor who wears an RE or religious "hat" can produce an assembly at a few moments notice!
- invite them to attend an act of collective worship beforehand so that they may see how the school conducts them, or, if this is not practical, lend them a copy of the collective worship policy document
- some visitors may also need to be told that collective worship is not an appropriate vehicle for hard sell evangelism, and that inclusive language ("we all believe...") is to be avoided

Visitors who are regularly involved in collective worship should appreciate sensitive feedback on the appropriateness of their contribution to the school assembly programme.

And finally... NEVER leave a visiting speaker to take an act of collective worship alone, it is bad manners, bad educational practice, and bad churchmanship!