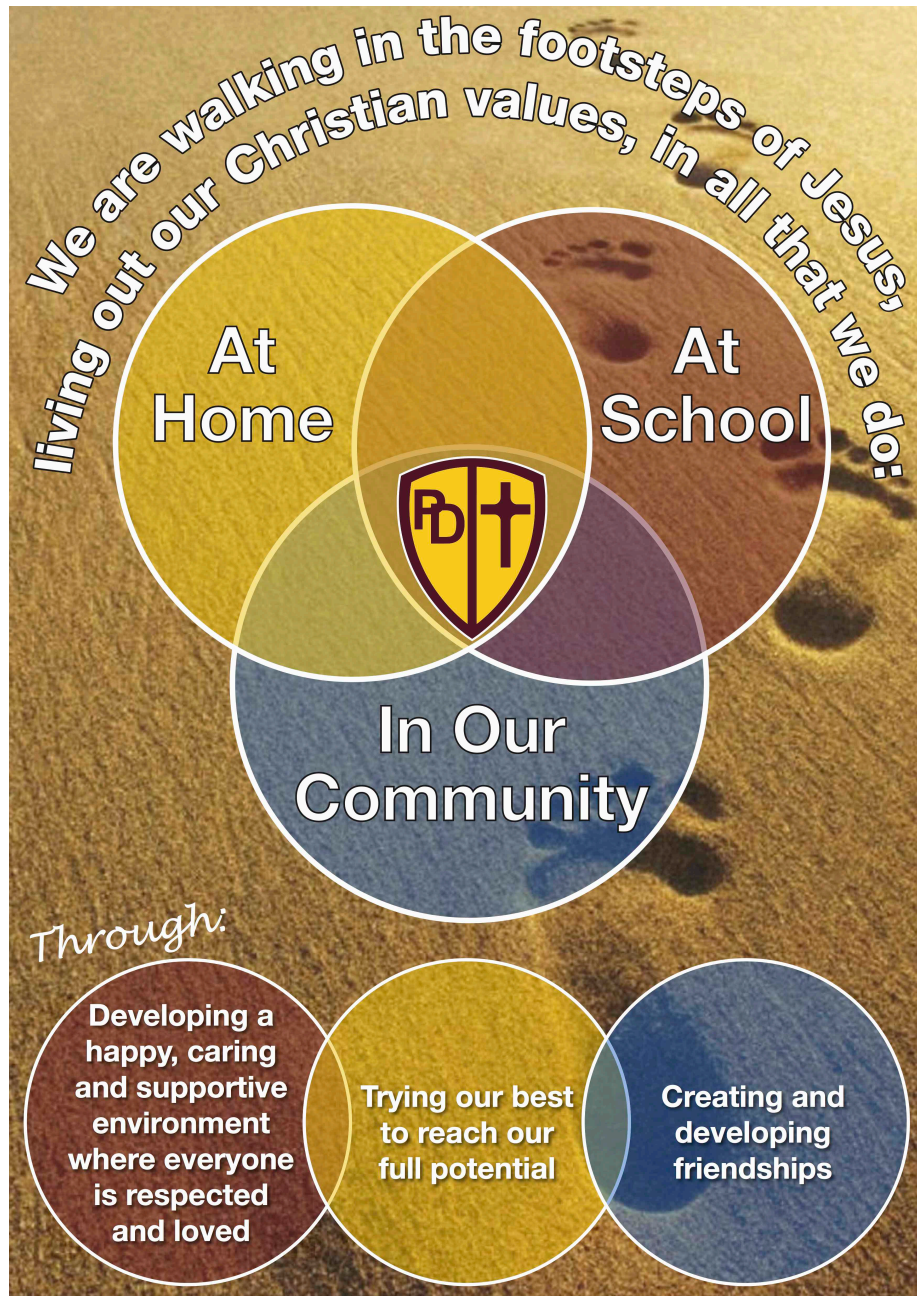


# Parbold Douglas Church of England Academy

*Christo et Doctrinae  
For Christ and Learning*



*Collective Worship Policy  
REVIEW DATE: 2017*

“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)

## Collective Worship and the Law

Church schools in the diocese must fulfil two legal requirements for Collective Worship:

- **A daily Act of Worship for all children**
- **Collective Worship in Church schools must be in accordance with the school’s trust deed.**

## A Daily Act of Worship for All Children

The legal requirement for Church schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.

“The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.”

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

The 1996 Education Act gave parents the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. This is upheld under the 1998 Act. Governors must therefore ensure that this is clearly stated in the school prospectus and the school’s worship policy document. Schools must note that withdrawing pupils from Collective Worship for whatever reason is a breach of the law. If it is necessary to withdraw children in order to accommodate, for example, music lessons, those pupils must also be provided with an opportunity to worship at some stage in the day.

## Collective Worship should be in accordance with the school’s Trust Deed

Parents must be made aware that the Academy is a Church Academy and as such Collective Worship will be based upon the foundations and principles of the Church of England. The governing body should be made aware of their legal responsibilities and be clear of their statutory responsibility to uphold the Christian foundation of the school. This responsibility to uphold the Christian ethos and foundation of the school should also be made clear to staff on their appointment.

## Collective Worship reflects the Anglican Heritage and the Academy’s Trust Deed

Collective Worship in our church schools must reflect Church of England principles and the Anglican heritage on which the school is founded.

The Anglican heritage encapsulates a richness of tradition and practice in its worship. It is intended that over the course of a year some of this richness will be reflected in both policies and practice of the Academy. There is general agreement that worship should be an educational activity offering opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural

development. As with any effective lesson the teacher should employ a variety of teaching styles that engage and challenge.

Collective worship should therefore include some of the following:

- The use of the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning making every effort to ensure that the story or passage chosen is accessible for the children
- Reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in worship
- A visual focus for prayer and reflection. For example a thought provoking stimulus or a special table with a cloth and a visual symbol
- Lighting candles as a visual focus for prayer and worship, making reference to The Trinity
- The opportunity to reflect on key religious artefacts from the Christian and other religious traditions
- Observing the religious cycle of the Christian year For example, Advent, Christmas and Easter
- Observing Saints days and other key Holy days.
- Sharing in a commitment to dialogue with other faiths, shown in the welcome given to all pupils and the celebration of shared values and beliefs. This might include the recognition of other key religious festivals such as Passover, Id-ul-fitr, and Divali.
- Participating in the regularity and set order of Anglican worship. This recognises the central significance of the Eucharist while acknowledging the variety of other forms of worship, which may be decided locally in order to match as far as possible pupils' experience in school and church.
- An opportunity for prayer and/or for quiet reflection. This might include prayers that the pupils have written themselves as well as the identification of a collection of prayers that governors and staff feel pupils should have encountered before they leave school. For example, Morning Collect, The Lord's Prayer, The Grace
- Providing opportunities for pupils to discover the value of meditation and silence
- Using traditional Christian responses and greetings. For example 'Peace be with you'
- A talk or a story
- Introductory music to create a worshipful atmosphere. This also gives an opportunity to develop pupils' awareness of music from other religious traditions and cultures
- The singing of hymns and or appropriate songs. Making a list of traditional hymns, that pupils should have encountered before they leave the school. This is also part of pupils' cultural heritage.
- Using poetry, music and art to provoke a thoughtful response. Using video, television clips or slide presentations. It should be remembered that Christianity is a worldwide faith and this can be reflected in the material selected and used.
- Drama and role play
- The use of dance to allow pupils to explore their own feelings
- Topical issues of a school, local, national or international nature that relate to Christian values
- Newspaper articles that promote a thoughtful response.

Worship in our school should:

- be clearly outlined in the school prospectus and documentation
- reflect the Academy's Trust Deed
- reflect the Ethos Statement and/or Mission Statement of the Academy
- be clearly planned
- be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils
- offer opportunities to worship God
- be inclusive and an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected
- offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church
- be regularly monitored and evaluated
- reflect the aims of the Academy
- underpin the Christian Values and ethos of the Academy
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community
- be an opportunity for pupils to reflect on human existence
- help children explore and develop their own spirituality
- enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- give time to consider the beliefs and values of others, especially those within the school community
- be attended by all staff, including support staff where possible
- make reference to The Trinity - The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit
- offer opportunities to share worship with parents, governors and members of the local community
- celebrate special occasions in the Churches year and the life of the community
- show appreciation for the God given gifts and talents of the school community.

## Responsibility for Collective Worship

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met. The Principal and RE leader ensure that a range of staff lead whole school worship, including local clergy and members of the church.

## Documentation

Governors should ensure that the school provides the following documentation:

- A clear statement on Collective Worship in the school prospectus which makes clear the Christian foundation of the school and includes the parents legal right to withdraw their children.
- A clear and concise policy statement on Collective Worship which includes the following:
  - The school's ethos statement
  - The school's aims and principles
  - The school's commitment to worship
  - The school's commitment to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
  - How the school's worship will reflect the school's Trust Deed and its Anglican heritage
  - The arrangements and practice within the school
  - Where and when the worship takes place
  - The links made with the local churches and the clergy
  - The educational value of worship and the possible links made with other areas of the curriculum



Advice to visitors and clergy when leading collective worship in a church school

- Detailed planning documents stating the themes to be covered each year or term
- Documents which show evidence of regular monitoring and evaluation of practice.

## The Timing of Collective Worship

Collective Worship should be given a special period in the school day; a time when various groups within the school can meet together for prayer and reflection.

- Worship takes place in a variety of settings for example – In the school hall, in a class, outside, in the local church or church hall.
- The 1998 Education Act allows schools, on special occasions, to hold their daily Act of Worship elsewhere than in the school.

## The Planning, Delivery and Evaluation of Collective Worship

Good planning should underpin Collective worship in the same way that it will underpin all learning in the school.

### Long term planning

Worship at Parbold Douglas is linked to the 15 core Christian values for schools.

### Medium term planning

This will include:

- the names of those responsible
- a breakdown of the weekly themes
- a list of readings, books or stories to be used
- possible hymns/music
- visitors taking part or leading worship

### Short term planning

This will be the detailed planning produced by those responsible for those leading the worship.

### Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is lead by many within the Academy and the wider community. Parbold Douglas puts a great emphasis on 'Pupil Lead Worship' that gives the children the ownership and freedom of direction, in an integral part of school life.

### Evaluation of Collective Worship

Following the planning of worship, the evaluation and recording needs is an integral part of the process. Worship is evaluated by those leading the worship, other staff, the pupils for whom the worship is intended or members of the governing body. Feedback from any of these groups will help to improve the quality of worship offered to the pupils.

## Monitoring of Collective Worship

The monitoring of the planning and provision of worship is to be carried out on a regular basis. The foundation governors have a key role in this process to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality. It is important that the following areas are monitored regularly:

- The centrality of worship in the life of the school
- That there is a clear policy which is agreed by governors
- That the agreed policy is being implemented
- That all staff are aware of the legal requirements for Church schools
- That worship takes place on a daily basis
- The school's 'Trust Deed' is upheld
- That staff appointed are prepared to support the Christian ethos of the school in terms of Collective Worship
- The planning of worship reflects the 'Trust Deed'
- The themes are well balanced throughout the year
- The regular provision of worship
- Links with the local parish and community
- That finances are available to develop the school worship
- That resources are available to support the worship

Reporting back to the governing body is part of this process as it would be with any other curriculum area.