



Low Furness CE Primary School

'Love your neighbour as yourself'

Mark 12:31

Policy for Collective Worship

At Low Furness, our aim is to embed one of Jesus' greatest commandments into our school ethos of Love.

"Love your neighbour as yourself."

We are committed to providing daily Collective Worship which strengthens our Christian vision, one which is underpinned by Jesus' teaching that the Greatest Commandment of all is reflected upon hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees. At this point the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with the question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.' (Mark 12:31)

A vision of love underpinned and guided by God's love & the Holy Trinity: **love of self, love of others, love of learning**, and a **love of the world and local area** that we live in threads through all aspects of our school life, curriculum and actions we take. Our daily Collective Worship allows us time to reflect, take time and build on our school vision through our recipe of love.

Love of self - Loving, valuing and accepting yourself either as a child or an adult, is a key part to good mental health and wellbeing. This includes recognising that all people are uniquely made in the image of God and equally loved by God regardless of who they love or how they identify. Our children will celebrate this uniqueness along with their skills and talents which they are encouraged to share with others.

Love of others - Guided by God's love, Loving your neighbours (others) and the challenge that this brings allows us to explore who neighbours are and lets us explore and learn about difference and diversity in all its forms. We want our children to treat others with dignity and respect, and to celebrate the differences which make up modern Britain and the wider world.

Love of learning - At Low Furness we strive for academic excellence for all, providing a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum to children of all faith and no faith through the lens of Christianity. Our vision of love shapes our approach to providing support for pupils with additional needs and has driven us to improve, develop and invest in a new curriculum for this academic year. Within our curriculum, children have a core foundational knowledge across all subjects and has been carefully designed to enable children to know more and remember more. All adults are encouraged



Low Furness CE Primary School

'Love your neighbour as yourself'

Mark 12:31

and supported in continuing their own learning journey through our ambitious curriculum and high quality CPD.

Love of the world - The world we live in offers an infinite number of possibilities for all. We want our children to embrace these opportunities both in school and beyond so that everyone in our school community can flourish into the young people and adults they are meant to be. We aim to create confident young people who can be fully inquisitive participants in an increasingly interconnected world.

Our recipe of love at Low Furness captures the key ingredients and gospel values we have identified to ensure that all adults and pupils are able to thrive and flourish.

1. Background: Collective Worship Legislation and Guidance

All maintained schools must provide daily Collective Worship for all registered pupils and promote their spiritual, moral and cultural development.

In community schools, Collective Worship must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.¹

In Church schools, the requirement is instead to reflect the Anglican status of the school as expressed in its trust deed.

Best practice in delivering Collective Worship² requires it to be:

- **Inclusive:** so that is accessible and meaningful to all, whatever their faith or none.
- **Invitational:** so that there is no compulsion to 'do anything' just a warm offer to be present and engage with integrity.
- **Inspiring:** so that it motivates pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and wider community's behaviour and actions.

2. Collective Worship and Vision:

Collective Worship is a special time of each day at Low Furness CE Primary School. It is the time when we gather together, pause and reflect in our classes, House Teams, Key Stages or as a whole school.

Collective Worship is an expression of our Vision and contributes significantly to the flourishing of all. It offers pupils the chance to value individuality and uniqueness, *love of self, love of others, love of God, love of learning and a love of the world we live in*. It enables pupils and adults to develop spiritually, emotionally and socially, asking, reflecting on and answering big questions about meaning



Low Furness CE Primary School

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Mark 12:31

and our responsibilities as part of a global community including, *'Who am I?' 'Why am I here' 'How then shall I live?'*

2. Invitational Worship and Spiritual Development:

Our word 'Worship' comes from an Old English word meaning to acknowledge or attribute worth. If we choose to worship, we are acknowledging how and why God is worthy of praise and thanks. It is a personal experience which depends on an individual's attitude. Worship which is directed by, or insisted upon, by someone else is not, in fact, worship.

At our school, worship is **invitational**. All are **offered** the chance to worship daily, including through prayer and through song. Collective Worship does not pre-suppose shared beliefs or convictions. It does not seek a uniform response from pupils or adults.

Through our Religious Education (RE) curriculum, our Relationships, Sex, Health and Education (RSHE) curriculum and Christian and British Values we support pupils in developing their own personal convictions. Our school offers pupils a safe space in which to explore their feelings, thoughts and beliefs.

Every day, all members of our school community are taken to the threshold of worship. Whether or not to cross it is for the **individual to decide**.

3. How Collective Worship is made special:

We take thought to make our Collective Worship time special every day by:

- Creating an atmosphere which is conducive to worship and/or reflection (through use of music, a visual focus, artefacts and the lighting of our three candles to represent the Trinity)
- Careful and intentional timetabling so that Collective Worship time is not disrupted by other activities occurring on the school site and occurs at a time when pupils are most responsive.
- Ensuring every member of the school family is present. Pupils at this school are never withdrawn from Collective Worship for interventions or 'catch-up' time.
- Choosing themes and content which are appropriate to our school context, reflect our vision and are pitched appropriately for those present.
- **Inspiring** each member of our school community to reflect on their own behaviours and how they might make a change for their own sake or for the sake of others.



Low Furness CE Primary School

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Mark 12:31

4. Aims of Collective Worship:

We aim to make every act of Collective Worship meaningful, engaging and relevant to those present, whether they **choose to** worship or not. As a Church of England school, our worship is predominantly Christian in nature.

However, at this school, we ensure that everyone, whatever their faith or none, can take part with **integrity**. For example, a Bible story illustrating Jesus' teachings (on loving one another, on caring for the vulnerable, on generosity or any other theme) will regularly be shared. The message of that Christian story is unpacked and made relevant to everyone in attendance so that all may be **inspired** by it.

Collective Worship sessions offer rich opportunities for teaching and encouraging reflection. At this school, we have the following aims for acts of Collective Worship:

- We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with the Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives through our school vision. Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this.
- To offer pupil-centred sessions which either reflect pupils' experiences or appropriately expand and broaden them (content).
- To provide variety (in terms of content, the ways in which pupils are encouraged to interact, the use of music etc.) to appeal to the preferences of as many pupils as possible.
- To offer pupils and adults space to reflect on the spiritual, acknowledging the capacity of our pupils to seek meaning beyond the material and physical.
- To allow time to respond to social and moral issues and the questions which relate to life as a global citizen.
- To provoke in those present a sense of meaning, wonder, joy and celebration or thanksgiving.
- To enable pupils and adults to explore the use of silence for stillness, reflection, meditation, exploring inner thoughts and feelings and, as appropriate, prayer.
- To heighten pupils' awareness of questions relating to the ultimate mysteries of life and to explore the responses that have been made to these questions by people of faith.
- To develop an understanding of how the teachings of Jesus and the Bible are relevant to each of us, whatever our personal convictions.
- To provide opportunities for pupils and staff to explore and celebrate the Christian values on which the school is based.
- To enable the school community to explore a range of forms of worship and recognise the rich traditions of the Anglican church (locally, nationally and around the world).



Low Furness CE Primary School

'Love your neighbour as yourself'

Mark 12:31

- To develop an understanding of the Christian belief in a God of three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

5. Use of Music

The use of music at Low Furness CE Primary School is very important. We use music which reflects our school's vision. Music plays an important part in developing our pupils as **respectful and loving global citizens, and in helping them develop spiritually**. We introduce our pupils to a diverse range of musical styles and genres to help them find the music which is most helpful to them for reflection or worship. We also represent (through video) a diverse make-up of cultures and backgrounds to help our pupils to make sense of the rich global musical community and how music is used in worship across the globe.

Music is chosen carefully to avoid asking pupils to declare a faith in God they may not have. Some of our music contains elements which are confessional (they declare a faith in God or desire to worship). However, where such songs are used, we explain what the lyrics mean to Christians in order that pupils (and staff) may decide, for themselves, whether to sing them. We take the time to explain that some songs, sung by Christians, involve the artists singing to God. However, the words of such songs lend themselves to our school family choosing to sing to whomever they wish – God, a family member, a friend

Some worship songs used are great for music-based learning opportunities (regardless of whether the lyrics are reflective of pupils' beliefs) and, as such, have great worth as a teaching tool. An example is, *Our God is a Great Big God*. Whether or not pupils agree with the sentiment of the lyrics, they can benefit greatly from the opportunity for teaching rhythm (semi-breve, minim, crochet, quaver). By using worship songs for more than just their lyrics, they are made **invitational** and relevant to all.

6. Organisation

An act of Collective Worship takes place daily¹ and usually lasts 20 minutes.

Day	Time	Nature of Worship	Leader
Monday	10.10	Whole School Collective Worship: Vision & values	Headteacher or Clergy
Tuesday	10.10	Teacher led class Collective Worship including Worship news	Class teachers/Pupil led
Wednesday	10.10	Class led whole school Collective Worship	Class teachers
Thursday	10.10	Singing Worship	Class teachers/ Visitor
Friday	2.30	Worship celebration	Headteacher and Pupils



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Mark 12:31

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship. We invite members of charitable organisations who offer their expertise to the school to lead us in worship.

At Harvest Festival time, Christmas, Easter and to say 'goodbye' to our Year 6 Leavers, the whole school, and our family and community, visits the church for an act of worship led jointly by the pupils and the church.

7. Content

We follow a values-based yearly plan for Collective Worship, focussing on one of our core Christian values each half term. Alongside this we follow key events in the liturgical calendar as well as recognising key events and dates throughout the year linked to Christianity and world views.

Content for individual sessions is not prescribed, in order to allow for those leading to draw on topical or world events, personal experiences, situations which have arisen in the school or wider community.

However, planning always includes:

- an explanation of how the current value/theme helps us to live out our vision
- links to the Liturgical Church year
- suggested relevant Bible stories & scripture links
- relevant links with RSHE, SMSC and British Values or any other part of the school curriculum
- suggestions for activities or opportunities for children's participation through role play, drama, discussion, reflection stations, singing etc
- ideas for following up whole-school worship either in Key Stages or in the classroom
- suggestions for reflection stations relevant to the theme of the half term.

Crucially, our planning also reflects the input of the children and parents

8. Training

Any leader of worship (pupil or adult) at this school has access to training to support them in their role. In particular, through training, we ensure a consistent approach to the use of **inclusive** and **invitational** language in all sessions. We work closely with the diocese to regularly develop our leaders of worship. This involves diocese led training sessions and regularly CPD during weekly staff meetings.

9. Visitors



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10. Evaluation of Collective Worship

The effectiveness and impact of Collective Worship is monitored regularly. Monitoring involves the whole school community. It is led by the Collective Worship lead who is the Headteacher and is supported by the link governor for Collective Worship.

Monitoring seeks to assess the impact of the school's Collective Worship provision and includes visits to the school, dialogue with pupils and parents, either through conversations (eg the school council) or questionnaires. There will be an annual review of the collected evidence conducted by the Headteacher and/or the school's collective worship leader and the collective worship governor to consider future development of the collective worship programme.

11. Right of Withdrawal

Given the **inclusive** and **invitational** nature of our acts of Collective Worship outlined above, we hope that every parent or carer would wish their child to take part in this special part of the school day. However, parents do have the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. There is no requirement to explain or give reasons for a request of withdrawal. However, if this is something you are considering for your child, you are warmly encouraged to contact the Headteacher, who will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

12. Review of this Policy

This policy will be reviewed for three years and is next due for review in Summer 2028.

13. References

¹ [Education Reform Act 1988, section 7\(1\); DfE Circular 1/94 \(1994\).](#)

² [Collective Worship in Church of England Schools Guidance Document: Inclusive Invitational Inspiring](#)