



**Abbas and Templecombe
Church of England Primary School**
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Collective Worship Policy

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Vision

- A place of safety and care where everyone is known and loved for who they are.
- A place where teaching and learning challenges us to be the best we can be.
- A place actively following and living out the teachings of Jesus.

In a letter Paul wrote to the early Christian churches he said 'Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance' (1 Corinthians 13 Verse 7). This very recognisable verse is the basis for how our school lives each day; with our community striving to show love and forgiveness just as Jesus demonstrated through his life and teaching.

Jesus lived our values in his daily life as recorded though many of the stories in the New Testament – a good point to come back to is 'What would Jesus do?':

- **Love** - Jesus' love knew no bounds as he gave his life to save us all. He especially cared for children telling his followers to "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them!"
- **Perseverance** - Jesus did good in all he did persevering through difficult times, showing us that doing good and right is our most important job.
- **Inspire** - Jesus' life and teachings can inspire us to live by his example.
- **Respect** - Jesus showed respect to those who deserved his care and love no matter what their background.

Collective worship can take many forms and it should be personalised to the group of pupils and the teacher delivering the session but there are some key elements that should appear and do apply to all forms of collective worship at Abbas and Templecombe School.

In our collective worships we should be focusing on the schools core values, biblical sound information and elements of the Christian Calendar – all worships should be distinctively Christian in character and subject matter.

Planning for all collective worships should follow the whole school weekly theme which will be shared with parents in our weekly newsletters – there are resources to go with each week’s theme that can be particularly used in class / year group worships.

Core Principles:

- John 10:10 – ‘Jesus’ message is for all’
- Hebrews 4:12 – ‘His word is the best tool’

Key Elements:

The main point of the worship input should have a biblical basis – preferably you should read a passage from the bible to back up the point you are making.

The process is as follows:

- The Bible
- The passage – Work out what it is saying
- The message – How the passage relates to the children’s lives

Make it clear – one point
Make it interesting – have a hook
Make it relevant – apply it

All whole school worships open with the words:

- *Leader* – The Lord be with you
- *Congregation* – And also with you

Multimedia resources are a brilliant way of hooking children in – this is not always appropriate.

Child participation, whether this be them reading, acting, holding things up or pupils answering questions, it is still a great way of engaging pupils in the worship – it is not always appropriate but do try to involve pupils wherever possible.

Singing – this is a good opportunity for all to join in saying thank you to God and for pupils to have a little stretch during an act of worship (sitting on the floor is not that comfortable).

Class or year group collective worships are an opportunity to look further into the topic of the week – give the pupils a chance to share their understanding.

Consideration should be given to the environment that the worship is taking place in – light levels, how the pupils are sat (lines, circle, disorderly pile...).

Ensure that pupils have an opportunity to reflect, either through prayer or a time of structured silence.

Our schedule for worship is:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole School	Key Stage	Class	Sung	Whole School

All worships take place from 9.05am to 9.20am.

All staff are welcome to attend a whole school worship each week.

Our Worships must be based on our ‘Collective Worship Planner’ which incorporates our school values and is sent out in the form of a PowerPoint every term by the Head Teacher.

Worships based on our school values must reference the values to God/Jesus/Christianity. All Worships must be 'distinctively Christian'.

All Worships must include a prayer and/or a moment for spiritual reflection. We encourage the use of music in Worships.

Children must 'hold the stillness' for Collective Worships. This is our 'system' whereby Collective Worship, powerfully, begins in the classrooms and children 'hold the stillness/silence' from the classrooms as they walk to the school hall and back again ... meaning that an ambiance of being prepared for and valuing worship exists in the hall from the outset. Staff must encourage and foster 'holding the stillness'.

Parents/Carers have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship and R.E. lessons. All requests must be put in writing to the Head Teacher.

Pupil Voice and Involvement:

Pupil voice is gleaned through School Council discussions – we find that this gives us a good understanding of pupil's feelings and experiences of Collective Worship. Pupils from each class also create a weekly reflection that is shared in our Friday reflection time and placed in the Collective Worship Portfolio.

Pupils are especially involved in Class Worships. This is definitely an area for further development as pupils have more recently said they would like to be involved in the planning and running of our Worship time.