

Rushwick C of E Primary School

Ask, Seek, Knock

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Collective Worship Policy

Collective Worship at Rushwick Primary School

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Our Christian Vision

Inspired by the teachings of Jesus and recognising each person as a unique child of God, we work for the common good of everyone, ensuring our door is open for all to flourish. We encourage all to thoughtfully ask, graciously seek and courageously knock, so that together we can make a difference to our Rushwick School family and the wider world.

Our School Values

Respect	We treat all others with respect. Being respectful is reflected in the courtesy with which we speak, act and treat one another. Acting respectfully gives people the dignity they deserve. Respect is behaving in a way which makes life more peaceful and orderly for everyone.
Kindness	We look for ways to help each other, kindness is showing you care about anyone, knowing that everything is part of God's creation. Kindness is being concerned about the welfare of others. Kindness is showing love to someone who is sad or needs your help.
Trust	We tell the truth and can be trusted. Trust is having faith, hope and a positive outlook. It is relying on and believing in someone or something. It is having confidence that the right thing will come about, without trying to control it or make it happen. We know we are never alone and that God is always with us.
Compassion	We understand and care for someone who is in trouble or has made a mistake. It is being kind and forgiving even when others may not be sorry for that they have done. It is caring deeply and wanting to help. It is being considerate and having regard for other people and their feelings. It is also important to show compassion to others and yourself. Compassion is the most meaningful way to show love.
Gratitude	We are thankful for all we are given and all of God's creation. Gratitude is to be thankful for what you have. It is an attitude of gratitude for learning, loving and being. It is also being thankful for the little things which happen around you and within you everyday. It is an openness and willingness to receive each of God's bounties. To be grateful is to have a sense of wonder about the beauty of this world and to welcome all of life as a gift. Gratitude is a path to contentment.
Courage	We understand that showing courage is doing what needs to be done even when it is really hard and scary. Courage is personal bravery in the face of fear. Courage is going ahead even when you feel like giving up or quitting. Courage is needed in trying new things, in facing the truth and in picking yourself up after a mistake ready to try again. It comes from knowing deep down what is right for you and believing in yourself to do it. Courage can come from prayer and the trust that God will help.

Our vision and values are rooted in scripture, particularly Jesus' teaching on Kingdom principles in the Sermon on the Mount.

This is a practical lesson on how to live our lives, rooted in Christian Values. At Rushwick, working with and for others, we endeavour for all our community to know how much they are valued by one another and God.

Jesus teaches us to ask, seek and knock and in response, God will open our hearts and minds to receive, to find and the door will be opened to a world of opportunities.

"Our Golden Rules"

Be gentle

Be kind and helpful

Be honest

Work hard

Look after property

Listen to people

Be 'e' aware

These **Golden Rules** for the Rushwick school community represent our understanding of **British Values**. We expect all adults working within the school community to promote these values and golden rules by celebrating diversity and championing equality.

Introduction

Collective worship will take place daily for all pupils and is an integral part of the life of the school.

Our act of collective worship will be Christian in character. It will concentrate largely on those inclusive beliefs, traditions, and values that exemplify the ethos, mutuality, and community of the school.

Other religious festivals and beliefs are also explored throughout the year.

Our act of collective worship acknowledges and values the response of each pupil, and provides opportunities for children to express feelings of delight in life, wonder, joy, rejoicing in the good, sorrow, anger, etc. It is hoped that all can contribute and all can gain from it.

Definitions

An *Assembly* is a gathering without a spiritual accent. It is occasionally a time when School notices are read and sports results are recounted.

Collective worship is a gathering of individuals with diverse beliefs.

Corporate worship refers to the worship of a faith group. In a faith group there is a common belief system, e.g. Christian, but within the faith system there may be many interpretations.

DfE 1/94: Worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to “collective worship” rather than “corporate worship”.

Aims

The aims of collective worship are to:

- Promote spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development through all the aspects of assembling together for a common purpose.
- Create an atmosphere of calm and awareness of each other so that all may share thoughts and words, faith and faiths, feelings and emotions, awe and wonder meaningful reflection and worship.
- Celebrate achievements and special occasions, in respect to individuals, the school, and the community
- Present and reinforce beliefs, rules, and values.
- Nurture an understanding of the holy trinity.
- Encourage children to celebrate the good, praise achievements, consider their place in the community, and recognise their own worth and potential as a unique child of God.
- Give children an opportunity to learn how to pray and to participate in communal and private prayers.
- To encourage empathy and understanding towards all people within the local and wider community.
- Involve children fully in the collective worship, as leaders, evaluators and participators

The act of collective worship will be a special time of the day for the children. It will be inclusive (taking account of the children’s age, aptitude, and backgrounds), it will have real educational value, and it will be spiritual. At all times it will be relevant to the children and may be used as a focus or launching pad for what goes on elsewhere in the school.

Organisation

- Collective worship will usually take place in the hall, but can also happen in classrooms, school grounds, and at church.
- Collective worship may be taken by any member of staff or member of the children’s worship crew in any venue as long as the right ethos is created, and the content is appropriate to the age group of the children.
- The vicar, Open the Bible and people from within and outside the local community are invited to lead the act of collective worship.
- Class and sharing times are encouraged. Where possible, at least one staff member per class is represented at all collective worship, with all staff invited to participate in major collective worship

Parents

- Parents are invited to attend special events, class and sharing celebrations.

Resources

- School cross, candles, bible and covered table (See liturgical calendar)
- Books, pictures, films, videos, aesthetic decorations e.g. flowers, displays of appropriate artefacts, and children's achievements will be used for collective worship.
- Worship display and vision and values displays.
- Worship folder for children's Worship crew.
- Music, either played by staff and/or pupils, or pre-recorded may be used as part of our collective worship
- Hymns, carols and songs will be sung as appropriate.
- A significant resource is the Church, and it is our aim to allow all the children to visit and worship in it at least once a year.
- Evaluation forms
- Props and costumes for 'Open the Bible'
- Liturgical planning meetings

Content

The school follows the Church Year. Some acts of collective worship will be discrete; others will build on a half termly value which were decided upon by the school community (children, staff, parents) based on Christian Values. Other themes come from the classroom, national or global events or multi-faith festivals will also form acts of collective worship.

Withdrawal

Parents / Guardians have the right to withdraw their child from acts of collective worship following a consultation with the Head teacher, but it is hoped that parents who choose to send their children to Rushwick School do so because they appreciate its close connection with the Church and wish to take advantage of the provisions made for a Christian-based education. Where children are withdrawn, alternative supervision will be arranged.

Records

No formal written records will be kept of main acts of worship, but the quality of worship will be regularly reviewed via daily evaluation forms, the school council and staff meetings.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every year by staff and governing body.

Collective Worship Timetable

Termly rotas are created and sent to all staff, Rev Anne, Open the Bible, Godly Play and other stakeholders.

	Collective Worship	Leader	Comment
Monday	Value or theme based.	SLT or class teachers on a rota	
Tuesday	Hymn practice	Class teachers on a rota	Staff may choose the hymns they share from Out of the Ark, or other sources. Out of the Ark has hymns organised by their links to our school values. There is a list of key hymns to be sung at Easter and Christmas.
Wednesday	Faith service	Rev Anne or 'Open the Bible' team	
Thursday	Class prayers and Book worship (Alternate weeks)	J Ballinger Worship Crew in YR , 1, 2, 3 Class teachers in Y4,5,6.	J Ballinger to lead book worship. (Worship crew details available to staff).
Friday	Celebration assembly	D Holley	Stars of the week, achievements outside of school, awards, birthdays. Parents invited.
Class assemblies for Year R-5.	Class led worship where parents are invited. One per year, per year group.		
Christmas service	KS 1 to lead worship via sharing Nativity. Parents invited. Key Christmas hymns.		
Easter service	KS 2 to be involved in a service led by Rev Anne. Parents invited. Key Easter hymns.		
Leaver's service	Year 6.		
Godly Play	Sessions led 2/3 times a year.		

Our opening prayer

"As we light the candles, we remember that God the father who loves us is here. That Jesus the son, the who brings us peace and freedom is here. And that God the Holy Spirit is here to encourage us."

This is shared at the start of all acts of worship. The trinity candles are lit in the hall, a single candle is lit during class prayers.

Our School Prayer

"Thank you, God, for our school. Please help us to make it a safe and happy place for everyone. Amen."

This is displayed in the hall and is shared at the close of all acts of worship.

Lunchtime Prayer

"For food and friends and family, we give you thanks, oh Lord, Amen."

This prayer is shared in classrooms before children enter the hall for lunch.