



Collective Worship Policy

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires all schools to provide for all pupils a daily act of worship and in the case of Dulwich Village Church of England Infants' School these acts of worship will be Christian.

Mission Statement

At Dulwich Village C of E Infants' School our aim is for all children to 'flourish with God in life, learning and love.' We believe it is important as a whole school to give thanks to God and pray and praise together.

Jeremiah 29v12 – "Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen".

Collective Worship is at the heart of the school day, engaging all the community in an opportunity to spend time with God, developing the idea of how we can experience God in life, learning and love. Our sung worship helps the children fully understand what it means to flourish with God, explaining how God's love is big, strong, unconditional and faithful.

Worship is planned on a three-year themed cyclical basis that incorporates both RE and PSHE issues from a Christian perspective (see Appendix: DVIS Long-term Worship Plan). The themes also tie in closely with the Anglican Church year where possible. It is then planned on a termly basis, approximately 2 weeks before the end of the previous term and disseminated to all staff. Worship is led by a member of the teaching staff on a rota. (See termly plans).

Whole school worship is as follows:

Monday - Thankfulness when we all share the things we want to thank God for in our lives and the good things we see in other people's lives too.

Tuesday - We listen to a bible story or passage, think about who Jesus is and what difference that makes to us in our lives. This may follow a theme or an aspect of the Church calendar.

Wednesday – led by Vicar or Curate from St Barnabas to reflect the weeks' theme from Sunday School or Anglican Church year.

Thursday - We meet to remember the values we share and ask God to help us in showing these in all parts of our lives.

Friday - We worship through praise - a Praise Party, a rousing worship time together as a whole school!

The last week of each term includes a Values Cups Celebration for the whole school, celebrating how the fruit of the Spirit have been shown in our lives at school.

Whole school worship

Each term we cover a different theme (e.g. God's Heroes) and each week we look at a different aspect of that theme (e.g. St Barnabas). The theme is introduced during Tuesday's worship (which may be delivered through a

dramatised story and/or supported Christian artefacts or relevant objects from staff or children). All members of the school community are free to share, reflect and respond.

The 'worship leaders' consists of 6 members drawn from each of the Key Stage 1 classes. Their roles include setting out chairs, displaying the cross on the table at the front, moving the slides on the IWB for the song, saying the welcome at the beginning, praying, sending and leading the songs from the front. The worship team rotates on a half-termly basis.

Format

- **Lighting of a candle.**
- **A 'collect' or welcome – e.g. the Peace** (worship leader)
- **A song of praise** (Sung at the start or end of worship. The words are displayed on the interactive whiteboard and the CD for the song is played)
- **Introduction of the theme**
- **Sharing and Reflection Time** (children are encouraged to participate, reflect and respond in a variety of ways.
- **A prayer** (worship leader/children)
- **A sending out**

Class Worship

Occasionally class worship time is held and is an opportunity to discuss a theme as a class, allowing children to reflect on what they've heard, to think about how it applies to them, and to respond to it.

Example format

- Children sitting in a circle in their own classroom, with a candle in the middle. Discussion over the worship theme that week, using the weekly Worship Plan.
- A prayer led by the teacher or a child in the class.
- A moment of reflection. Children can close their eyes or look at the candle, and think about how the previous discussion is linked to what is said in the bible and how this reflects in their own lives. Contemplative music can be played in this reflection time.
- An opportunity for children in the class to record their thoughts in the school Worship Reflections book (if appropriate)

Values Celebration

1 Thessalonians 5 v 11 "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing".

In Values Celebration we recognise the efforts of one child from each class who has demonstrated one of the school's values in action. At the end of this celebration, we say a prayer of thanks for the example that these children have set, and offer this as our act of worship to God.

Format

- A lit candle.
- A 'collect' - usually the Peace.
- Reflective music on entry and exit. This may be a CD or a YouTube video clip, or live music from staff (Music teacher on guitar)
- A song of praise. (Sung as the children enter and exit the hall. The words are displayed on the interactive whiteboard and the CD for the song is played).
- Teachers prepare a 'certificate' showing a picture of a child from the class, along with the value(s) they have shown well in the past week. The teacher leading the worship will describe which school value the child has shown by asking the class teacher to explain how that child showed the school value(s).

- The child will be congratulated by all the children, staff and the worship leader and are then asked to choose a 'cheer' to receive from the rest of the children. Examples are the 'dinosaur cheer' to which the children roar, or a 'fairy cheer' to which the children (and adults) sprinkle fairy dust over others.
- A prayer led by the teacher or a child, giving thanks to God for everyone who has shown the school values.

The class teachers ensure that records are kept regarding values celebration to ensure all children have an opportunity to shine. The sheets are displayed on the 'Values Celebration' board in both buildings, and a copy is sent home in book bags for parents and children to keep.

Praise Party

Praise Party is a sung worship celebration for the whole school, including energetic songs of praise, and more reflective songs of worship.

Format

- A lit candle.
- Music on entry and exit. This may be a song to sing as children arrive, or a reflective piece, or live music from staff or children (Music teacher on guitar, recorder club children, school choir)
- A 'collect' - usually The Peace.
- Three songs of praise and worship, led by the music teacher.
- A prayer. This may be led by a member of staff or a child.

Values Cups Celebration

Similar to the Values Celebration, we recognise the efforts of one child from each class who has demonstrated one of the school's values in action, consistently throughout the term. This is held in the last week of each half term, and led by the head teacher. The class teachers discuss with the head teacher their nominations for the 10 cups (two for each school value) and records are kept to ensure that as many different children as possible are celebrated. The Headteacher announces the winners one by one, and the children receive a collective cheer (similar to the weekly 'Values Celebration'). Their photos are taken, and displayed in frames in both buildings.

The staff cup for showing the values is also awarded during Cups Celebration. All members of staff are able to nominate a colleague to receive the cup. The Headteacher makes the final decision, usually based on the number of nominations.

At the end of this celebration, we say a prayer of thanks for the example that these children have set, and offer this as our act of worship to God.

Prayer Corners

These are areas within each classroom that encourage the children to reflect in their own time.

These may include:

- A Bible
- A cross
- A book for recording prayers
- An unlit candle
- An interactive display encouraging the children to think about themselves or others on a school or global level, and respond through written or spoken prayer

Monitoring

The RE Leader and the leadership team will monitor teaching and learning of RE and Collective Worship on a regular basis. Evidence will be gathered to support judgements and targets outlined in the SIAMS. Resources will also be ordered and organised.

Inclusion

Worship is planned and led so that all pupils have equal opportunity to take part in worship and to benefit from that experience. A variety of Christian songs and translations of the Bible are used from the range of Christian traditions represented in the school. A variety of multicultural material is also drawn upon encouraging engagement, respect, tolerance and understanding.

Dulwich Village Church of England Infants' School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided infant School where Christian values and principles underpin the whole curriculum and the experience of daily worship by the whole school community is an important part of school life. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship as identified in the Education Act 1944 and in subsequent legislation and this should be reviewed on a yearly basis. In order to preserve the distinctiveness of this church school community, we encourage everyone to be involved in the religious education and collective worship. Parents who have concerns about this should discuss them with the Chair of Governors and the Headteacher before their children are admitted to the school.

Reviewed September 2022 Helen Poyton and Melanie Searle

APPENDIX: DVIS LONG-TERM WORSHIP PLAN

Cycle 1

A1	A2	Sp1	Sp2	Su1	Su2
School Vision & Values	Light and Hope	Who is Jesus?	Flourishing in the power of Holy Spirit	New Life	God's Heroes

Cycle 2

A1	A2	Sp1	Sp2	Su1	Su2
Flourishing with God	Fruit of the Spirit	Living in Community	Lent	Learning to pray	Stories of Jesus

Cycle 3

A1	A2	Sp1	Sp2	Su1	Su2
The Bible is God's story.	How can I be wise? (Knowing right and wrong)	How can we flourish in our learning? (Jesus the teacher)	How does giving help me flourish? (Lent & Easter)	Who makes the rules? (Lord's prayer & 10 commandments)	How can I help my world to flourish? (Creation)