**The Royal (Crown Aided) First School**

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**Collective Worship Policy**

#### “Loving to learn, learning to love, guided by God”

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| Date reviewed | Nov 2013  June 2016 |
| Date of next review: | Nov 2018 |
| To be reviewed by: | Headteacher/Teacher |

This is a live policy and the Head Teacher is responsible for maintaining its accuracy. Any required amendments should be sent direct to the document owner.

**Introduction**

At The Royal School our desire is to develop quality acts of worship within the spirit and the letter of the 1988 Education Reform Act and in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed.This policy sets out our school’s aspiration in relation to collective worship.

**The Legal Context**

Church schools must fulfil three main legal requirements for collective worship:

* Provide an act of worship for all pupils every day
* Ensure that collective worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school
* Include a statement in the school prospectus that makes it clear that parents may withdraw their children from all or any part of collective worship

Worship may take place at any time during the school day. Most acts of worship within a school term should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature.

**The Nature and Purpose of Collective Worship**

The staff and governors of The Royal School, in partnership with the Diocese of Oxford, aim to enable children to develop as honest, caring and thoughtful members of both the school and wider communities. We believe that they should understand the difference between right and wrong and know that each person is a unique individual whose well-being is important to all.

We believe that worship plays an essential part in the life of our school since it contributes to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of the child as well as reflecting the ethos of the school At our collective worship is a time where the whole school share a special moment of spiritual togetherness every day.

**Aims ad Objectives**

***Christian Values***

#### “Family, Wisdom, Service, Respect, Love, Honesty”

Our aim is to encourage the children to be active members of our school family by working through themes that relate to aspects of Christianity. In relating these themes to their own experiences, it is hoped that the children will feel able to discuss issues of importance in a confident and respectful manner.

Whilst the nature of our Collective Worship is mainly Christian, we ensure that children of other religions feel at ease with its content and that their own personal beliefs are not challenged. They are actively encouraged to participate in collective songs.

When they attend preliminary meetings prior to their children starting school, parents are informed of the nature of our Collective Worship and are encouraged to discuss any questions or difficulties which may arise.

**Collective Worship Themes.**

The chosen themes for exploration and reflection are decided on a termly basis, and follow those suggested by a range of sources including the Oxford Diocese. Throughout the week range of staff to reflect further on the Christian message.

Monday Celebration Collective Worship

Tuesday ‘Open the book’

Wednesday Collective Worship lead by pupils or other staff members

Thursday Collective Worship with additional hymn practice

Friday Collective Worship and then groups of pupils attend ‘Godly Play’

Worship can be achieved through a variety of media including music and hymns, words and scriptures, ritual, movement and drama, and stillness and reflection.

Other visitors are also invited to give pupils the opportunity to learn about different forms of Christian worship. The school holds a service in School for Harvest Festival and our Nativity Concert. Christmas, Easter, Mothering Sunday and Leavers are all services held in the Royal Chapel and are attended by the whole school/each year.

**Special Celebrations.**

Whenever there is a special celebration or festival, for example a Saint’s day, Harvest or similar event in the religious calendar, the theme of the week is often incorporated into the chosen collective worship session.

**General Structure.**

* Collective Worship usually takes place at the start of each school day or just after lunchtime.
* The chosen theme for the week is explored and is followed by prayer or a moment of stillness. The children usually listen to a piece of music on entering and leaving the hall, as well as joining together to sing a hymn or song.
* Whole school assemblies are held on a daily basis either in the hall as a whole school assembly or class based in the classroom. Canon Poll leads Collective Worship every other Monday. The Monday morning assemblies are also a time for celebration with certificates, house points and prizes being awarded for good behaviour and academic achievement.
* Class assemblies take place each term where a class leads the assembly for the rest of the school. The parents of that class are invited to attend these.
* Parents are also encouraged to come and join in celebrations such as Christingle services at the beginning of Advent.
* As has been the tradition at The Royal School, once a week we sing the National Anthem together and if possible a child accompanies on the piano.
* The class teacher leads the children whilst they say or sing Grace prior to having their meal/going out to lunchtime play. At the end of the day, each class says or sings a prayer before they leave the premises.

**Year 4 Collective Worship leaders**

The Year 4 pupils are collective worship leaders and manage the liturgy of our collective worship alongside planning and delivering a collective worship session of their own when they are ‘introducing the altar’.

Selected monitors in Year 4 start whole school assemblies by placing items on the altar table (Candle, Bible, Flowers and a Cross). They say a sentence to accompany each one e.g. “*Here is a candle which reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world”*. These sentences may be reviewed periodically so that the children think about and have a better understanding about what each symbol represents.

Years 4 are also given responsibility to choose and say a prayer, play music and operate the computer to show the words of the song.

**Worship at the Royal Chapel**

We are fortunate to be able to worship at The Royal Chapel at least once a term and parents are invited to join us for any special services or celebrations that we may hold there.

The children and families are also invited to attend certain services at The Royal Chapel on Sunday mornings.

**Equal Opportunities**

In sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives, along with our common concerns, responsibilities and values, we affirm the equality of each individual, regardless of gender, creed (or lack of one), ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

**Special Educational Needs**

The staff and governors at The Royal School are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive benefit from collective worship, whatever her or his ability. Every attempt is made, therefore, to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests.

**Monitoring and evaluation**

What is the impact of Collective Worship? Evaluation strategies used by staff and governors for assessing the impact of collective worship are:

* observation of the children’s interest level and attentiveness;
* feedback from pupils, parents and visitors;
* observation of the children’s general behaviour in and around school, and to one another;
* a focused visit by Foundation Governors.

Assemblies are planned and a record of our worship is maintained in our ‘Worship File’. Themes for collective worship are linked to whole school planning including the Christian timetable, RE and PSHE. There is also a need for flexibility in order to respond to national and unexpected events where appropriate.

The Worship Co-ordinator will ensure records and resources are maintained and will regularly monitor the content and quality of acts of collective worship.

Evaluation and review of Collective Worship is inextricably linked to our School Development Plan, the content of which is regularly discussed with all staff and governors. Information from our monitoring strategies are analysed in order to assess the quality and effectiveness of our assemblies and to inform future whole school improvements.

The governors in consultation with the Head teacher are responsible for the collective act of worship within our school. The staff, head teacher and foundation governor will review progress alongside our original long term aims and feedback to governors on a regular basis.