

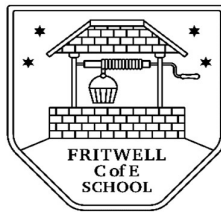
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Drawing on the Water of Life

“Living well; Learning well; Loving well”

Collective Worship Policy

September 2026

This policy was agreed by Governors on:

Date:

To be reviewed:

Chair of Governors:

Headteacher:

Vision and Values at Fritwell CE Primary School

Drawing on the Water of Life: Living well; Learning well; Loving well

Our vision is rooted in Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4: 13-15). Through this encounter, Jesus showed someone who may have felt overlooked that she was welcomed, valued and loved. Inspired by Christ's example, we seek to be a community where every person is able to flourish and fulfil their God-given potential.

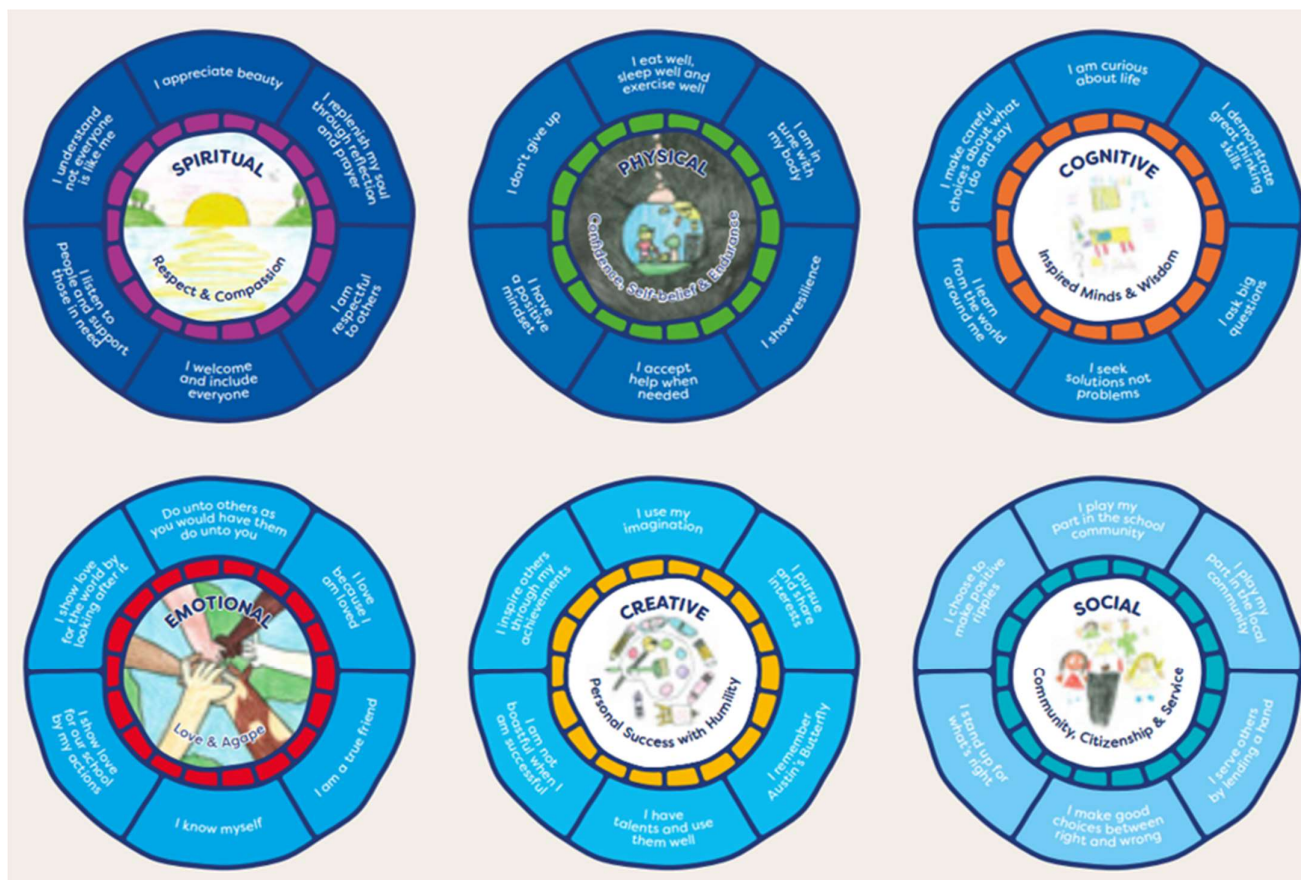


Together we draw on the Water of Life so that we can:

Live Well by making wise choices and becoming the best version of ourselves

Learn Well by growing in wisdom, confidence and understanding.

Love Well by demonstrating kindness, compassion, forgiveness and respect for others.



Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life of our school. Taking place each afternoon, collective worship is the heartbeat of the school. It is the time when the whole school community has the opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian vision and ethos. It is an opportunity to reflect on our spirituality and what that means for us at Fritwell. Worship shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school. We warmly invite all members of our school community to join our worship. Our aim is that collective worship at Fritwell is inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

Our collective worship provides pupils and staff with the opportunity to:

- Celebrate:
 - Christian seasons and festivals (Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost)
 - school values associated with our vision;
 - Pupils' and adults' achievements;
- experience prayer, stillness, worship and reflection;
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer;
- create a reflective approach to life including the exploration of deep questions;
- develop as a community centred on our clear and distinctive Christian vision;
- experience a variety of styles of worship;
- experience the liturgical traditions of Anglican worship;

- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship;
- feel safe and affirmed;
- appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world;
- encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible;
- worship God on their own terms.

Worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth;
- enable participants to consider moral questions in a Christian context;
- enhance social understanding and encourage responses to issues through courageous advocacy;
- give participants a chance to reflect on the place and importance of faith in the lives of people today;
- encourage participants to explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage;
- reflect the teachings of Jesus and a trinitarian theology.

The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place in the school hall and sometimes in classrooms. On occasions, worship takes place in St Olave's Church. Collective worship usually involves the whole school however it can take place with a variety of groupings. We follow the seasons of the Church year, and within these significant festivals, other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. Other important days in the calendar such as Remembrance and the Leavers' Service also feature in collective worship. Whenever worship takes place, it is planned to promote participants' thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

Each week, collective worship follows the same pattern with each day having a particular focus, as detailed below:

- Monday – Living Well
Worship focused on our vision, values and personal development.
- Tuesday – Clergy-led worship
Led by members of the clergy or church team. Exploring Christian teaching, Bible stories and the Anglican tradition.
- Wednesday – Singing or pupil-led worship
Providing opportunities for participation, praise and pupil leadership.
- Thursday – Celebration Worship
Recognising achievement, effort and examples of children living well, learning well and loving well.
- Friday – Class worship
Using Picture News and other resources to explore current issues, spirituality and courageous advocacy.

Each term focuses on one of the school's values, providing weekly opportunities to reflect more deeply on the importance and practical application of this value. Awards presented in celebration assemblies are also linked to the termly value, celebrating times when children have demonstrated it in their life at school.

Opportunities for contemplative worship are provided in addition to collective worship times through the use of the Spacemakers and Godly Play resources. This introduces the five habits of stilling, noticing, dwelling, mending and blessing within the context of a circle time session.

As we believe collective worship should be inspirational, on occasion there will be a 'people who inspire us' themed collective worship. This is when someone inspirational from the local community is invited in to share their story. Children have the opportunity to consider which of the Fritwell values have been lived out in that person's life. Children take ownership of these worship times, sometimes suggesting people who they consider to be inspiring in some way.

Spiritual Development at Fritwell

Collective worship plays a significant role in nurturing spirituality across our school community. Through worship, we provide opportunities for:

- **Awe and wonder** – recognising beauty, mystery and the goodness of creation
- **Reflection** – considering beliefs, choices, experiences and relationships
- **Connection** – developing relationships with God, ourselves, others and the wider world
- **Transformation** – reflection on how we can grow and flourish as individuals and as a community

Inspired by the image of the well and the Water of Life, worship encourages pupils and adults to pause, listen, reflect and draw strength for the journey ahead.

Leading worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from within school. Pupils are given opportunities to lead and contribute to worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to contribute to collective worship from time to time and are given guidance from the collective worship policy. Those who lead worship within the school are given the opportunity to receive training on leading collective worship.

Children are given the responsibility of opening and closing collective worship, symbolically lighting the three candles (using liturgy which links to the trinity) and using a variety of forms of greeting and sending out prayers. We aim to give children confidence in public speaking, teaching them specifically the skills needed for public speaking and engaging an audience.

On a fortnightly basis, a group of children take on the responsibility of leading Thursday's collective worship. They open and close the worship with appropriate liturgy; they lead discussions with the whole school; they read or act out stories from the Bible or on a particular theme; they manage participation from other children and lead the school in times of prayer or reflection. Most of the time, this responsibility is given to children from KS2. Where appropriate, some children from Year 2 may be involved later in the year.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders plan the content and activities included in worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme and the needs of the pupils. The themes of worship are chosen to both express and explore our vision and the way in which this vision is experienced in school through the associated values. A Big Question, related to the theme of each week, is included on the collective worship plan. Children have opportunities to respond to the Big Question throughout the week. Worship themes are planned around the Christian vision and encourage pupils to consider 'How can we live well; how can we learn well; how can we love well?' These questions help pupils to connect worship with their daily lives.

Through collective worship, pupils are encouraged to consider how they can respond to injustice, inequality and need. Worship inspires children to become courageous advocates who seek to show God's love in practical ways both locally and globally.

Opportunities are provided to learn about and support charitable causes, including our partnership with Family of Hope Uganda, helping pupils understand that all people are valued and able to flourish.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection. Our evaluations are fed into the planning of future worship.

Prayer

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

A legal note

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day;
- reflect the school's Trust Deed.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. We follow Church of England guidance that collective worship should be:

- Inclusive – accessible and meaningful for all;
- Invitational – offering opportunities to engage without compulsion;
- Inspiring – encouraging everyone to reflect, grow and flourish.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance, we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the headteacher.

Policy Review

This policy should be reviewed regularly in line with schools' procedures. An annual review is recommended if possible, but review must be done with