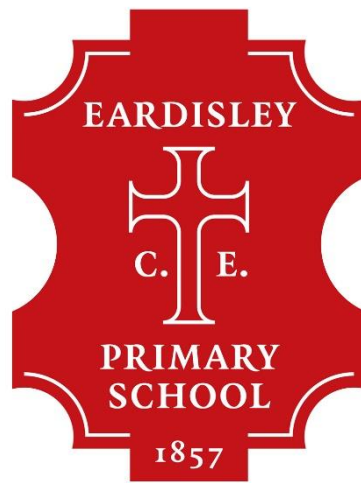


Eardisley CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



In all that we do our values shine through

INTRODUCTION

Eardisley Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School regards collective worship as central to its foundation status as a church school. It is an integral and important part of school life.

Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our vision in which we live out that *"In all that we do our values shine through."* *Through Friendship and Determination, the Christian teaching to 'love one another,' is rooted in our shared values, to guide, inspire and nourish, bringing Joy to all. (John 15:12)*

Daily collective worship is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together. The worship of the school is based on exploring the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

We celebrate that worship within the traditions of the Church of England exists for all. We truly wish for our worship to be inclusive, invitational, and inspiring.

LIVING THE VISION

Eardisley Church of England Primary School values Jesus' simple but powerful instruction: to show love, kindness and compassion in everything we do. At Eardisley CE Primary School, this message shapes how we learn, how we treat one another, and how we build our school community. It encourages us to form strong friendships, act with determination, and support one another so that everyone feels valued and cared for. By living out this teaching, we aim to create a joyful, nurturing environment where every child can flourish and where our values shine through each day.

Our acts of daily worship celebrate this vision to reflect all that is worthy of praise. They provide an opportunity to explore Christian liturgy, stories (sometimes from wider world views) and values in an ethos which actively encourages awe, wonder and reflection.

Our core set of values have included some of the following:

Love		
Friendship	Determination	Joy
We learn to be good friends	We learn how to keep going and grow.	We learn how to flourish and celebrate.
Autumn 1: Respect	Spring 1: Courage	Summer 1: Belonging
Autumn 2: Forgiveness	Spring 2: Responsibility	Summer 2: Gratitude

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES OF DAILY COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT EARDISLEY

The following principles are considered when arranging acts of collective worship:

- Collective worship should provide opportunities for staff, pupils and visitors to explore what it means to worship God and why this is relevant to everyday life.
- Collective worship should take place at a time set aside as a special and distinctive part of the school day.
- Collective worship should celebrate the beliefs, backgrounds and experiences of all members of the school community.
- Collective worship should value and acknowledge the response of each pupil and provide opportunities to share thoughts and ideas.
- Collective worship should enable pupils to learn about Jesus, the Bible, and God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Collective worship should provide opportunities for pupils to express feelings such as delight, joy and sorrow, and to celebrate what is good.
- Collective worship should enable children and adults to grow spiritually through times of reflection, stillness and prayer.
- Collective worship should reinforce a strong sense of community, recognising that we are one body made up of individuals who value and respect one another.
- Collective worship should be interactive and engaging.
- Some acts of collective worship should encourage pupils to look beyond the school and understand their place within the wider community and the world.
- Collective worship should introduce pupils to a range of Christian worship styles in an open and honest atmosphere (e.g. music, poetry, drama and art).
- Collective worship should encourage pupils to develop confidence in their own beliefs while learning to respect and value the beliefs of others.
- Collective worship should provide opportunities for pupils and adults to develop leadership skills through planning, leading and evaluating worship.
- Collective worship is not limited to a specific time or place; its impact should be seen throughout the life of the school.
- Collective worship should be the beating heart of the school.

In summary, collective worship should be welcoming and inclusive, reflecting the Christian call to “love one another” through friendship, determination and joy, and supporting the school community to live out its vision and values.

WHAT DOES DAILY COLLECTIVE WORSHIP LOOK LIKE AT EARDISLEY?

Our daily acts of Collective Worship are based around the current values with other aspects such as current affairs, courageous advocacy, church/school projects adding to the mix. We always include celebrations of the main festivals in the Church’s calendar: Christmas, Epiphany, Candlemas, Easter, Ash Wednesday, Pentecost, Ascension and Harvest. When possible, we try to include parents and carers to share in our worship.

We may use greetings or blessings from different sources including those from the [Church of England website](#). The [Barnabas in Schools](#) website offers some excellent material as does [Roots and Fruits](#).

The local rector of St Mary Magdalene, Rev’d Marcus Small, who is also one of our school governors, regularly visits school to lead worship. We also encourage the children to see St Mary Magdalene, Eardisley as their church, and on occasions like Remembrance Sunday, Harvest and Christmas we join the congregation and contribute to the worship. We value the

community relations we develop through being invited to share Eardisley's major events and for us to invite the community to share worship with us.

We visit St Mary Magdalene church regularly for special services and as a learning tool to assist in the understanding of the Christian faith and its history and traditions. We also offer suggestions as to what the church might offer a worshipping community which includes our children and families.

Children are often invited to take part in our worship through reading, drama, saying prayers and sharing other talents with the school. Other groups of children may lead worship exploring themes such as caring for God's world or courageous advocacy.

We keep in contact with the Diocese through visits to the Cathedral for workshops and special celebration services. Visits and training from the Diocesan education team also support and enrich our work.

We value the significance of visitors contributing to the richness of worship; for example, Hannah (Leominster Baptist Church) has visited on occasions.

ORGANISATION OF WORSHIP

Setting and Resources

We aim to provide a setting that enhances the act of worship. This may take place in classrooms or in the school hall. On occasions, and where weather permits, acts of worship may also be held outside within the school grounds. The local parish church is used regularly, and pupils attend monthly services, as well as special services and celebrations at major Christian festivals.

We also aim to provide a focal point for acts of worship. This may include a table laid with a cloth, a cross, a candle, a picture or a vase of flowers. Each class has a basket of worship resources that can be used to create a focal point. Children from Year 6 are given opportunities to help set up the worship table and to create the right environment for worship. A central collection of worship resources is kept in the hall and includes items such as crosses, candles, candlesticks and tablecloths.

A wide variety of resources are used to encourage discussion and reflection: music, movement, poetry, pictures, videos, photographs, stories, children's work, role play, drama, natural objects, artefacts, and candles.

Planning, Recording and Evaluating

Our acts of worship are flexibly planned around an annual programme of values themes taking account of important church festivals, key dates (e.g. saint's days) or key events in the life of the children, school and country. We also try to make links, wherever possible, with curricular themes being covered in that term. The school council, values ambassadors or eco-committee may plan and conduct an act of worship.

Periodically, children, staff and adults evaluate worship. The ethos committee, including governors take opportunities during the year to ask questions to help shape and reform the way the Christian ethos is lived out, including how we might develop worship.

The Weekly Diary of Acts of Worship

Day	Activity [9.20-9.40]	Collective Worship Opportunity
Monday	Whole school (children and staff) meets in the hall led by the headteacher Mrs Williams.	Worship includes stories, prayers and simple words that are linked to the church year and our school values. Children have time to think quietly, sing worship songs and may take part through drama or reading.
Tuesday	Rev'd Marcus Small	Worship includes stories, prayers and simple words that are linked to the church year and our school values. These opportunities take place in school or at church.
Wednesday	Members of staff take turns to lead the whole school.	A variety of songs (Out of the Ark, classic hymns and other relevant modern worship songs) practised and enjoyed with reference made to words and values within. Prayers – staff- or child-led.
Thursday	Key Stage worship – in classrooms.	Stories, messages, prayers and songs are linked to the focus of worship and are chosen to be appropriate for the children's age. The focus may be guided by the Diocese's virtual worship, the monthly school value or current events, including those explored through Picture News.
Friday	Whole school meet for Celebration Worship.	A focus on celebrating and sharing achievements: Merit Certificates given by all staff, Values Ambassadors choose one child each week and outside school achievements.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

In accordance with the Education Act 1996, parents have the right to withdraw their child from acts of collective worship should they wish to do so. If this situation arises, suitable arrangements for the supervision of the child during these periods will be made following discussion with the parents.