THE DOVE-SHELL FEDERATION

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Date of Policy / Reviews	Author(s)	Approved by Gov. Body	Signed	Date for review
2010	A. Laskey			
27.06.2017	A. Murray			30.06.2017
23.06.2017	A. Murray			30.06.2018
21.05.2019	A. Laskey			30.05.2020
31.05.2022	D. Warburton			31.05.2023
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04/03/2026	D Warren			05/03/2027

‘Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord’
Colossians 3:23

The Dove-Shell Federation comprises two Church of England, Voluntary Aided schools located in Oldham. The schools and staff work closely together to model the same strong Christian ethos and values. However, both schools have their own unique character and distinctiveness. At The Dove Shell Federation, Christian values are at the heart of all that we do and all that we are in school and in the wider community.

East Crompton St James’ CE Primary School Ethos

We work together as one, having confidence in everyone’s potential to persevere whilst showing courage, respect and trust to all.

Our vision is for all members of our school community to be equipped to serve in God’s world and live life to its fullest.

‘Encourage one another and build one another up’ Thessalonians 5:11.

St Thomas’ Moorside CE Primary School Ethos

Our school is grounded on friendship towards everyone we meet, on trust between children, staff and our wider community and on compassion shown through empathy for all.

Our vision is for all members of our school community to be equipped to serve in God’s world and live life to its fullest.

‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ Mark 12:31

The Henshaw Trust

St Thomas’ Moorside work together with The Henshaw Trust to achieve a common aim of promoting God’s kingdom and the values and teaching of the Church of England

We are a Church of England community and our Christian values underpin all that we are and all that we do. Our faith is explored and reflected upon daily through Christian worship and Religious Education and lived daily through all our practise.

Our vision for learning at The Dove Shell Federation is to enable all children to provide broad and balanced educational experiences, ensure subjects are taught in a cross curricular manner, develop capacities for learning and ensure pupils receive an education that will serve them well beyond their primary years (see Curriculum policy).

We do this by:

- Providing quality of care, support and guidance for all children and their families and recognising parents and carers as partners in their children's education and spiritual development, respecting them as having a vital contribution to make.
- Provide a safe, stimulating and supportive learning environment that motivates and challenges pupils to achieve their full potential and every child feels they are valued and know their contribution to everyday life is important.
- Work together to develop an understanding of the Christian faith, enable spiritual growth through church and community links.
- To learn about and gain respect for other religions and their beliefs.
- Value and support all those involved in school and give them the opportunity to develop their individual potential and to never lose the enthusiasm to learn.

- Maintain the ethos of trust and corporate responsibility as well as all working together as a team.

- Encourage personal, social and physical development through a wide range of extra-curricular activities both within school and the wider community.

- Nurture fruitful and caring relationships, equality, tolerance, respect, and offering forgiveness between all members of the school community through Christian values.

What is Collective Worship?
It is a time when we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements and think how we can be the best we can be. The worship of the school is based on promoting Christian values which permeate the ethos of school. As such the contributions of all stakeholders are highly valued. Through worship we seek to enhance spirituality and promote attitudes of awe and wonder.

Christian values
Christian values are derived from the teachings of Jesus Christ. We feel that by using the Christian values below and sharing the word of God we create opportunities for maximum growth and development – academically, spiritually, socially, emotionally and mentally. These values link directly to our mission statements and vision.

Through Christian Values we want to ensure that our schools are places that enable children to learn and play, feel safe, happy and feel valued, where they are able to flourish and experience God’s wonderful world in all its fullness. We aim to provide rich, memorable learning experiences which build character in each individual child.

Term	Christian Value
Autumn 1	Service
Autumn 2	Compassion
Spring 1	Perseverance
Spring 2	Justice
Summer 1	Trust
Summer 2	Courage

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British Values
The Dove Shell Federation reflects British Values in all we do. We carefully select biblical text for worship and reflect on the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance in storytelling.

Our Christian and British Values together:
Democracy – Justice / Trust The
Rule of Law - Service
Individual Liberty – Perseverance/Courage Tolerance &
Respect – Compassion

Spirituality
In May 2024, staff across the federation worked collaboratively to develop a shared definition of spirituality:
‘Spirituality is an individual connection with something greater than one’s self. It gives us a unique feeling of belonging, peace and contentment. It leads us to question, in awe and wonder, what it is to be human.’

At The Dove Shell Federation, we value spirituality and the holistic development of the child. We fully embrace the National Curriculum by “promoting children’s spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.” Our role as educators is to guide the children in our care along the path of life, therefore Spiritually plays a big part in our daily worship. As children grow in their understanding of spirituality and values are embedded, they become secure enough to make mistakes and therefore move on with their spiritual learning and academic growth.

Our Aims for worship at The Dove-Shell Federation are:

- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all children and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship, and reflection whether they are engaged in learning in school or at home.

- Enable all children and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, e.g. using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals, and where appropriate, the Eucharist.

- Help children and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today’s world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible, and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God, and its language.

- Enable children as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading, and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

- Encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

It is not expected that all these aims would be met in a single act of worship, but the program over the year will meet all the aims.

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Organisation and Delivery of Worship

We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. Worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. Worship follows the following structure:

1. Welcome (an opening prayer - instilling togetherness. The lights are dimmed except for the spirituality light and the Worship table is set - the Worship table has a cross, Bible, lit LED candle and singing bowl on it. The singing bowl is struck to symbolise the beginning of Worship.)
2. Word (scripture/stimulus to provide focus and connect with God)
3. World (discussion of practical application - what will the impact of worship be? How will those engaged in Worship go on to live as a result of this experience?)
4. Worship (a song to express reverence and adoration and a closing prayer)

DAY/TIME	PARTICIPANTS	LEADER	Theme/Focus
MONDAY 2.45pm	Whole school	Assistant Headteachers	Christian value
TUESDAY 2.45pm	Key Stage Two	Key Stage Two Leader	Christian value
	EYFS/Key Stage One classes – in classrooms	Class teachers	
WEDNESDAY 2.40pm	Whole school	Clergy	Church Calendar
THURSDAY 2.45pm	Key Stage One	Key Stage One Leader	Christian value
	Key Stage Two classes – in classrooms	Class teachers	
FRIDAY 2.40pm	Whole school Parents and families invited	Executive Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher	Celebration of learning

Note – Each class to be allocated one class assembly date per year to present learning to parents and families. These dates will usually be on Wednesdays.

During class worship, classes will reflect on the values and their reflections will be shared as part of the communal prayer spaces.

Visitors

Visitors are welcome into school to take assemblies. Monday assembly slots are preferred, but other times may be accommodated if appropriate. It is important that children experience different approaches to leading worship.

Groundbreakers

Once every half term we invite Groundbreakers to lead the Monday worship. "Our

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Groundbreakers project is exciting work that aims to provide opportunities for children to explore the Christian faith in fun and interactive ways. It promotes the spiritual and moral development of children through worship…' Mary Butt, Groundbreakers Project Leader.

Prayers

East Crompton St. James'

Dinner: KS1 Thank You for The Food We Eat KS2 For Every Mouthful Home

Time: KS1 Hands Together KS2 Father, We Thank You

Assembly and Class: The Lord's Prayer

St. Thomas' Moorside

Dinner: KS1 Thank You for The Food We Eat KS2 For Every Mouthful

Home Time: The School Prayer

In Class: The Lord's Prayer, The School Prayer

See Appendix I for details of above prayers

When members of our school communities choose not to pray, we ask that they be still and suggest they make the prayer their own or reflect on the teachings that have taken place during worship. Prayer and reflection may be interchangeable for children as they make their own, personal responses.

Services

East Crompton St. James'

Harvest, Easter and Leavers services take place in school at the end of Autumn, Spring and Summer terms respectively. The whole school visits St James' Church for Eucharist and to celebrate Christingle and Holy Week.

Worship Areas in Classroom

Areas for worship should be set up for worship by the class teacher. They may be either static or mobile. Worship areas should display the mission and values statement of the school along with Christian values and relevant prayers. The value being focused on currently should be of prominent display. Worship areas should also have a cross, Bible and LED candle.

Inclusion

All governors and staff recognise their duties under the Equality Act 2010 to:

- Eliminate discrimination, bullying and harassment aimed at protected characteristics
- Promote equality of access and opportunity within our school and within our wider community
- Promote positive attitudes to difference and good relationships between people with different backgrounds, genders, cultures, faiths, abilities and ethnic origins.

Further information can be found in our statement of equality information and objectives, and in our SEN policy and information report.

All pupils will have access to Collective Worship. Within this framework, sensitivity will be shown to the religious beliefs and practices of all class members.

Relationship to Diocesan Guidelines

Diocesan guidelines for worship were also used in the formulation of the policy.

The Dove-Shell Federation schools serve a predominantly white Christian and atheist community. Whilst the content of our worship is broadly Christian in character, the worship group has worked hard to ensure that in accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act:

- the worship programme is appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of our children;
- our worship will not demand of any children (or staff) participation that they cannot give with integrity;
- that we are not asking children to take part in activities that may be offensive to them or their parents.

In this way children from Christian denominations, other faiths or no faith are included.

The Right to Withdraw

The law in England and Wales provides that children at all maintained schools (including those with no religious designation) "shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship."

At The Dove – Shell Federation we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Worship and/or Religious Education.

Religious Education provided by our federation is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and/or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school. If such a request for withdrawal is made, the Headteacher will explore the reasons for the request with parents and seek to arrive at an agreement. It may be that only some elements of Religious Education or Worship are objected to.

Parents are informed in the school prospectus that they have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education and worship.

Self-Evaluation

The Collective Worship leader will maintain an active awareness of the strengths and areas for development of Worship alongside the senior leadership team. Monitoring focuses on what knowledge pupils have acquired from Worship and the impact of this on their actions. Ongoing self-evaluation is completed at least annually.

There are a range of stakeholders who are asked to be involved in monitoring Collective Worship. These include: The Executive Headteacher, the Senior Leadership team, Chair of Governors, foundation governors, the Collective worship leader, staff and children.

Kathryn Jackson	Chair of Governors
Andrew Turner	Foundation Governor St Thomas
Sally Johnson	Foundation Diocesan Governor Link governor for Collective Worship – clergy led
Rev. Paul Pritchard	Foundation Ex Officio Governor St James’ Link governor for Collective Worship

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Rev Cait Walker	Foundation Ex Officio Governor St Thomas’
Deborah Warrington	Foundation PCC Governor EC St James’
Simon Cane	Foundation Governor Henshaw Trust (St Thomas’)

Collective Worship Leader: Debra Warren.

APPENDIX I

Prayers East Crompton St

James’

Thank you for the Food We Eat

Thank you for the world so sweet,
Thank you for the food we eat,
Thank you for the birds that sing,
Thank you, God, for everything. Amen

For Every Mouthful

For every mouthful,
For every plateful,
Thank you, Lord,
We’re truly grateful. Amen

Hands together

Hands together softly so,
Little eyes shut tight,
Father just before we go,
Hear our prayers tonight. Amen

Father we thank you for the night

Father we thank you for the night,
And the precious morning light,
For rest and food and loving care,
And all that has made the day so fair,
Help us to do the things we should, To
be together kind and good,
In all we do at rest or play,
To grow more loving every day. Amen

The Lord’s Prayer Our

Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heaven,
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins,
As we forgive those who sin against us.,
Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil, For
the kingdom the power
and the glory are yours,
Now and forever. Amen

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St Thomas’ Moorside

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Father in Heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done
On earth as it is in Heaven,
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins,
As we forgive those who sin against us, Lead
us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil,
For the Kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
Now and forever. Amen

The School Prayer

Dear Lord,
Help us to respect you and other people,
Teach us to help each other and work as part of a team.
Make us use our skills wisely and make our work fantastic!
We know that you are there to guide us as we work through the day
Amen