



Be all that you can be

Ewelme Church of England (VA) Primary School and Pre-School

Ready Respectful Responsible Reflective Resilient

Collective Worship policy

Approved by: Full Governing Board

Date: September 2024

Last reviewed on: September 2023

Next review due by: September 2025

Collective worship at Ewelme:

Collective worship is an essential element of helping us to fulfil our vision for our school, based on the bible passage below and our mission to enable all members of the school community to 'be all that you can be'.

“Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” James 1:4

This vision, and our school's values of being ready, respectful, responsible, resilient and reflective, are expressed, deepened, developed and celebrated through our collective worship.

Collective worship should enable all members of the school community to develop spiritually through the invitation that is offered to all to share together in prayer, singing, reflection, stillness, silence, calm, joy, laughter and collective worship in all its forms.

Collective worship is contributed to by teachers, pupils, invited visitors, the head teacher and the local clergy; led by the head teacher; and overseen by governors.

At Ewelme, our aim is to have daily acts of collective worship which are:

- Calm and reflective
- Opportunities to celebrate and strengthen our school's Christian ethos and vision
- Opportunities to introduce, discuss and reinforce the school's values of being ready, respectful, responsible, resilient and reflective

Consistent features of all collective worship:

- Music as the children arrive to create a calm and reflective environment
- A candle is lit at the start
- The school prayer is recited collectively (and other prayers may be shared)
- All invited to participate periods of reflection
- The candle is extinguished at the end
- Uplifting/upbeat music played as the children leave

In addition, in our weekly assembly in church, we:

- Share a bible reading, read by a Y6, and selected by Rev. Marion
- Recite the Lord's Prayer collectively (as well as the school prayer)
- Say a blessing

Weekly collective worship:

Day	Act of collective worship	Where?	When?	Led by
Monday	Whole-school assembly	Hall	9.05am-9.30am	JO and teachers
Tuesday	Church assembly	Church	9.05am-9.30am	Clergy
Wednesday	Key Stage assemblies	Chaucer and De La Pole classrooms	9.05am-9.30am	YS (KS1) and JO (KS2)
Thursday	Singing assembly	Hall	2.45pm-3.10pm	BL
Friday	Celebration assembly	Hall	2.45pm-3.10pm	JO

Collective worship across the year:

Term	Theme (5 Rs)	Jigsaw theme	Other celebration days, special events and services
1	Ready	Being Me in My World	Harvest festival
2	Respectful	Celebrating Difference	Remembrance; Advent; Christingle; Black History Month; End of term celebration assembly
3	Responsible	Dreams and Goals	Lent
4	Resilient	Healthy Me	The Easter Experience; International Women's Day; Month of the Military Child; End of term celebration assembly; End of term celebration assembly
5	Reflective	Relationships	
6	Recap of all 5 values	Changing Me	Y6 Leavers' Service; End of term celebration assembly

Link with St. Mary's Church, Ewelme:

We attend St Mary's Church, Ewelme every week for collective worship. This assembly is led by a member of the clergy.

In addition, we attend the church on four other occasions throughout the year:

- **Harvest Festival** – All parents/carers and extended family invited. Donations of food and other items are made by families and passed on to Wallingford Food Bank, run by the Ridgeway Church. Classes prepare poems, prayers and/or presentations linked to harvest and/or theme of gratitude and thanksgiving.
- **Christingle service** – All parents/carers and extended family invited. All children make traditional Christingles for use in the service. Classes each prepare short performances linked to theme – previous examples have included Christmas around the world, the nativity story and music linked to Christmas.
- **The Easter Experience** - All parents/carers and extended family invited. Each class prepare a short performance or presentation linked to the different parts of the Easter story – Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, the crucifixion and resurrection.
- **Year 6 leavers' service** – Year 6 parents/carers invited and given priority seating. Other parents/carers invited. Led by Year 6 including a short performance and presentation of traditional leaving gifts.

All the celebrations and services above include opportunities for singing – whole-school, classes, school choir, duets and solos – and prayer.

Spaces for reflection and spirituality in our school grounds and local area

Spaces have also been created in and around the school grounds for pupils to pray, reflect and/or contemplate:

- **Our Forest School site** - regular opportunities are offered for the children to be still and calm in the outdoor environment, focusing on what they can hear, feel or smell. They are often encouraged to look especially closely at small details in the natural world around them or to pay attention to things they would normally ignore or disregard. Time is often taken to discuss or marvel at the small wonders of the world around the children during Forest School that isn't always otherwise available in the busy day-to-day life of the school.
- **Peace Garden** – the old school house garden has been extensively redeveloped in conjunction with Friends of Ewelme School. It has been planted to offer a range of smells, colours and textures and raised vegetable beds have been installed to be planted up and maintained by the children.