



FOUR MARKS CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Headteacher: Veronica Stoodley	Chair of Governors: Jon Elliman
Date Policy first Adopted: April 2020	Reviewed: November 2024 Next Review Date: November 2027
Summary of Changes	Timetable/ overview of worship Change of person responsible from R Batts to V Ryan

Our policies reflect our Christian ethos:

"So let's choose for ourselves what is right. Let's learn together what is good." Job 34:4
'You show love for others by truly helping them, and not by merely talking about it.' (1 John 3. 18)

Introduction

This policy is an agreed statement of the values and aims of collective worship at Four Marks Church of England Primary School. It has been prepared by the governors and headteacher with assistance from other staff and diocesan advisers. Collective worship is valued as a central aspect of the life of our church school, through which children grow spiritually, emotionally, morally and culturally.

Legal status of collective worship

In a Church of England school, worship must be in line with the trust deed of the school and will reflect the traditions of the Church of England, i.e. the Anglican tradition.

The right of withdrawal

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship. We ask for this to be discussed with the headteacher so the exact nature of worship is understood by the parents before this becomes a permanent arrangement; alternative activities can be provided for worship time in consultation with parents. Please be aware that this does not mean that the children will be exempt from the Christian ethos of the setting which underpins our teaching, learning and relationships.

Worship in our school should:

As worship:

- Be at a level to enable children and adults to explore their own understanding of God within a Christian framework
- Explain and promote the core Christian values of the setting
- Have Integrity as acts of Anglican worship whilst being invitational, inclusive and inspirational
- Be based on Biblical text or themes
- Be central in importance to the life of our school community, which is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world
- Mark the seasons and festivals of the Christian year
- Develop understanding of Anglican traditions such as the lighting of a candle or use of a cross

For people:

- Develop personal spirituality within the setting community through a range of experiences including individual and collective prayer
- Celebrate the God given gifts and talents of individuals
- Make a significant contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of members of the school community
- Consider the beliefs and values of others, especially those within the setting community

To comply:

- Reflect any trust deed of the setting
- Be clearly outlined in the setting prospectus and documentation
- Involve children and adults in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship e.g. through acting out stories

Aims of our worship

- To promote the joy of worship as engaging, inspiring and transformative
- To develop spirituality, morality, social and cultural values
- Sometimes to provide a peaceful environment enabling stillness, reflection and prayer
- Sometimes to be noisy and joyous with singing, music, dance, drama, gymnastics etc
- To give an opportunity to experience faith as revealed in the Bible
- To understand, celebrate and develop children's knowledge of Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and religious festivals in the Anglican Church's year
- Facilitate a deeper understanding of the Christian story narrative, from creation to the present day
- To appreciate that people, cultures and beliefs differ and to demonstrate respect, tolerance and generosity towards them
- To develop young children's sense of self-worth and to provide opportunities to celebrate achievements
- To develop a caring attitude to others and a sense of community and loyalty
- To provide opportunities for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate collective worship
- To invite clergy of the parish, other lay members of the parish and other Christian leaders in the community [as are acceptable to the parish church] to lead worship weekly

How we achieve our aims

We aim to promote collective acts of worship, which are rich, meaningful experiences that are appropriate and significant to the pupil's needs, age, development and interest by:

- Creating a sense of occasion and reverence
- Providing opportunities that develop pupil's awareness of what is beautiful, good, wonderful, awesome and puzzling in life experience
- Arranging worship at different places when possible, different times with different people and groupings, involving all members of the setting community at some time
- Planning and linking themes which focus on a particular idea/concept, i.e. the liturgical year; festivals and celebrations, our Christian values
- Using a wide range of resources, artefacts (from religious and secular sources), music, art, drama and external visitors to engage children's interest
- Encouraging children to participate and experience different styles of worship, e.g. prayer, praise, silence, rituals, and become familiar with the language of worship, Biblical readings and liturgy
- Providing opportunities for children and adults to reflect, contemplate their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs
- Using the centrality of prayer – personal silent prayer, personal shared prayers, collective prayers, writing prayers; all prayer will be invitational
- Involving young children and members of the wider community to participate in collective worship and activities within the parish
- Presenting and creating displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas, thoughts and questions

Central attributes of an act of worship

The setting will endeavour to fulfil the following 'central attributes' of worship:

Gathering	Making worship a special time of the day
Engaging	Using the best available techniques to stimulate interest in the content
Responding	Ensuring there is time and opportunity for individual, group reflection and thought, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways
Sending	Summarising the worship in a meaningful short message used to create an opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas covered and to conclude the worship

Collective worship is planned systematically, so that there is continuity, variety and clear focus on Christian beliefs and festivals. Worship is led by a variety of people that include school staff, children, representatives from the parish church, and members of our local and wider community.

The centrality of prayer

During the collective worship there will be a time for response and reflection, to ponder on a question, statement or thought. This may also be reflected in an invitational prayer, offered spontaneously by a child or adult, read out or recited. This prayer can be displayed and used in class and setting reflective areas so that:

- Children understand the nature and purpose of prayer
- Children understand the part prayer may play in their lives and the life of the setting community
- Prayer contributes to the spiritual development of individuals and the whole setting community
- There will also be appropriate opportunities for prayer and other worship activities, including reflection, outside of collective worship

The school has 'reflective areas' to engage and promote individual young children and adults, as well as designated special spaces in classrooms or shared areas.

Planning and Organisation

Planning

Collective worship is planned systematically, so there is continuity, variety and clear focus on Christian beliefs and festivals. Worship is led by a variety of people that include school staff, children, representatives from the parish church, and members of our local and wider community.

Organisation

Monday	Worship led by Headteacher	
Tuesday	Led by Youth & Children's Worker or Vicar from The Church of the Good Shepherd	
Wednesday	Singing Worship/ Deputy Headteacher worship	Alternate weeks
Thursday	Worship led by Staff members on rotation/ Class worship (led by children)	
Friday	Singing Worship/ Celebration Worship led by Headteacher	Alternate weeks

Resources

The setting has resources available to support collective worship and these are stored in the headteacher's office and includes artefacts, 'Thanks' and music resources. Electronic resources and links to music and songs for worship can be found on the school network in Staff Share: Act of Worship.

Communication

The school will communicate with parents our collective worship themes via newsletters and display boards.

Parental involvement

Parents are actively encouraged to participate in collective acts of worship when possible. They are particularly encouraged to come to Worship led by their child's class, and special festivals and occasions.

Responsibilities

The normal expectation within our church school is for all staff to view collective worship as an important part of their own well-being and spiritual development as human beings. The school will endeavour to timetable staff so all have an opportunity to attend regularly. At interview all applicants are informed that the setting holds acts of collective worship that promote the Christian ethos and values of the school. The normal expectation will be that staff will participate in and lead collective worship. The school welcomes offers from any member of staff who feels confident to lead worship. Veronica Stoodley is responsible for co-ordinating the programme of induction and training for staff. Veronica Stoodley, Val Ryan, and our Children's Church Team are responsible for planning and organising collective worship.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by young children and staff. All who deliver worship will be observed on a termly basis. This process supports the school's self-evaluation and staff development and appraisal. All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

Review

This policy should be reviewed every 3 years.

References to 'parish' refer to the local parish church to which the school is linked.

Appendices

APPENDIX 1 - SIAMS grade descriptors for collective worship

APPENDIX 2 - 1a Collective worship observation form and 1b A practical guide to evaluating collective worship

APPENDIX 3 - Liturgical Colours and seasons of the Christian year

APPENDIX 4- Key Prayers used in school

APPENDIX 5- Hands for Prayer & Prayer templates for children

APPENDIX 1 – SIAMS Grade Descriptors for Collective Worship

Strand 6:

The Impact of Collective Worship

In a Church school collective worship should be inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

In a Good Church school which enables pupils and adults to flourish:

Worship is invitational offering everyone the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity. All those who wish to be so are actively engaged in worship. Prayer is a natural and valued part of the culture of the school. It is not compulsory or forced. All those who wish to do so will have regular opportunities to pray and reflect. Pupils talk about the value of prayer and reflection both in formal and informal contexts and how being still and reflective in their own lives can be helpful. As appropriate to context, pupils speak of their personal use of prayer and reflection. Pupils recognise that worship provides meaningful opportunities to contribute to their spiritual development.

Statutory obligations are met in context.

Worship is creative and pupils talk about how it often inspires them to action. It has variety, for example, involving music and liturgy, silence, story and reflection and, where appropriate, the Eucharist. Most staff and pupils talk about how worship causes them to reflect on their behaviour, values and attitudes. Worship ensures pupils develop an appreciation of the variety of elements and styles found in the diversity of liturgical and other traditions of the worldwide Anglican/Methodist Church and its diversity of expression within the UK. Worship provokes thoughtful and respectful responses from pupils. They are aware of the central importance of the Eucharist/Communion to Christian worship.

Planning for collective worship ensures that pupils have opportunities to encounter the teachings of Jesus and explore the relevance of his teaching in today's world. Pupils talk about the meaning of the different elements of Christian worship including belief in the trinitarian nature of God.

An effective shared approach to planning allows appropriate opportunities for pupils to gather, engage and respond. The planning, monitoring and evaluation of collective worship involves a range of members of the community. Pupils are actively involved in this process, often taking a consultative role. Most leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.

The local church community is regularly involved in collective worship, providing practical support and encouragement.

Requires Improvement: it is not yet Good.

Excellent: it is better than Good. For example:

- The school community recognises and values worship as the heartbeat of the school. Pupils and adults talk with enthusiasm about worship and explain how it influences their lives, both in and out of school.
- School leaders work proactively with the local church community or diocese who provide innovative and appropriate support for collective worship. Pupils take a considerable lead in the development of worship within the school. Staff are well supported to lead engaging tutor group and classroom worship.
- Pupils articulate an informed and evaluative understanding of the value and use of prayer and reflection. There are varied and interactive prayer and reflection activities on offer to all pupils which they find helpful and supportive.
- Pupils are enabled to engage with the Eucharist in creative and innovative ways, and this ensures a range of age and context appropriate opportunities for pupils to explore the Eucharist in ways that respect the integrity of the pupils.

APPENDIX 2 – 1a Collective worship observation form

Setting _____

Leader: _____ Observer: _____

Worship Theme: _____ Time Allocation: _____ minutes

Collective worship in Church of England Settings should at its simplest create a time and space where we can come closer to God and God can come closer to us.

CRITERIA	ASPECT	COMMENT
Central Attribute 1 Gathering	Is there a real sense of a very special time in the day? Immediate impact, relevant, welcoming, stimulates interest or dull, uninteresting, lacks focus.	
Central attribute 2 Engaging	Does the worship leader capture the attention of the children and staff so they become actively engaged in the content? Excellent - well expressed, stimulating or poor communicator Convincing, enthusiastic, warm or lack of rapport.	
Central attribute 3 Responding	Does the leader allow for a response from the children and adults – whether active or passive, noisy or quiet?	
Central attribute 4 Sending	Does the leader send us out with a clear “thought for the day” something that changes our behaviour in some way? Clear summary, learners given opportunity to reflect or unclear what the message was.	
In addition		
Content	Clear Christian / Biblical content and teaching. Woolly, lack of structure, largely secular.	
Summary		

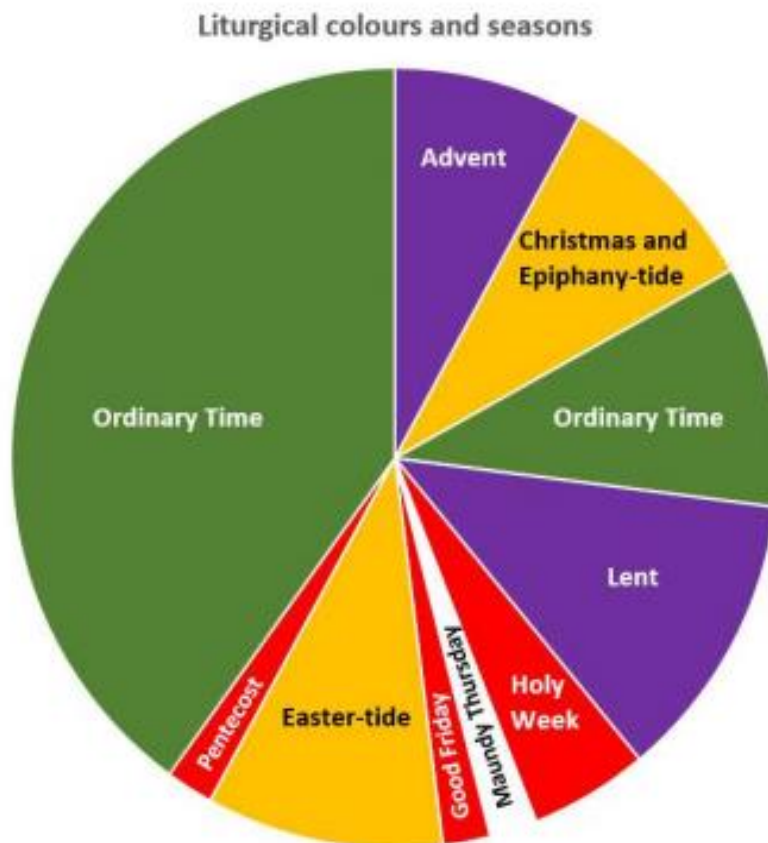
APPENDIX 2 – 1a Observation form pointers for consideration - NB not a check list.

Collective worship in Church of England Settings should at its simplest create a time and space where we can come closer to God and God can come closer to us.

Gathering	Music (entry/exit)	appropriate / random, linked to theme, creates atmosphere, delivers a message
	Welcome	whether greetings exchanged and introduction made
	Atmosphere	extent to which act of worship is portrayed as special and important
Engaging	Focus	table, cloth, Bible, cross, candle, artefacts ICT / Visual / drama provides appropriate, linked relevant visual/factual information
	Awe and Wonder	sense given of marvel of world / creation
	Conviction	extent to which message is clear and compelling or words lack power and appear as paying lip service
Responding	Participation	extent to which learners involved in responding, partner talk, opportunities for some to participate directly
	Singing	whether there was appropriate hymn / song, quality, enthusiasm of participation
	Reflection	learners given time to pause and reflect
	Prayers	extent to which prayers are appropriate and learner friendly, whether learners are invited to respond
Sending	Dismissal	whether the person takes charge, smiles, engages with some learners, says 'thank you'
Other aspects	Distinctively Anglican	clear reference is made to the Bible and Anglican Christian teaching and belief e.g. the Trinity - God, Jesus and Holy Spirit
	Inclusive	the worship reflects the multi faith / cultural nature of the world and feels inclusive to those of other and no faith
	Dynamism & Theatricality	was it a performance rather than an act of worship
	Open or Closed	does the leader give room for the children to build their own meanings / connections / links or are they told what to think?
	Age Appropriateness	are the language, concepts, ideas appropriate? Is it meaningful for the youngest yet appropriate for the oldest?

APPENDIX 3

Liturgical Colours and seasons of the Christian year



Season	Liturgical Colour	Description
Advent	Purple	The period covering the four Sundays before the 25th December: Period of preparation for Christmas.
Christmas-tide	White or Gold	25 th December to 2 nd February
Gap Between	Green	Gap of Green until Tuesday before Ash Wednesday
Lent	Purple	The 40 days of preparation for Easter
Maundy Thursday	White or Gold	The Last Supper
Good Friday	Red	The Crucifixion
Easter-tide	White or Gold	Easter Day until Pentecost
Pentecost	Red	50 Days after Easter (lasts a week)
The Rest of the Year	Green	From Pentecost to Advent

Meaning of the colours	Purple	Penitence, preparation
	White or Gold	Joy, purity, innocence, Saints who are not martyrs
	Red	Fire & Blood, therefore Holy Spirit and Martyrdom
	Green	Everything else

In some places	Blue	The Blessed Virgin Mary
	Pink	Mothering Sunday (4 th in Lent) and 3 rd in Advent

There are different versions of the colours used.
Please consult your parish for the colours used locally.

Appendix 4- Key Prayers used in School

Dear God, Together, we are walking
in Jesus's footsteps, learning to make
good and courageous LIFE choices to
help others, our world and ourselves.
Amen.

The Candle Prayer

We light this candle as a symbol to
remind us of God's perfect gift to
us. Jesus is here, his spirit is with
us.

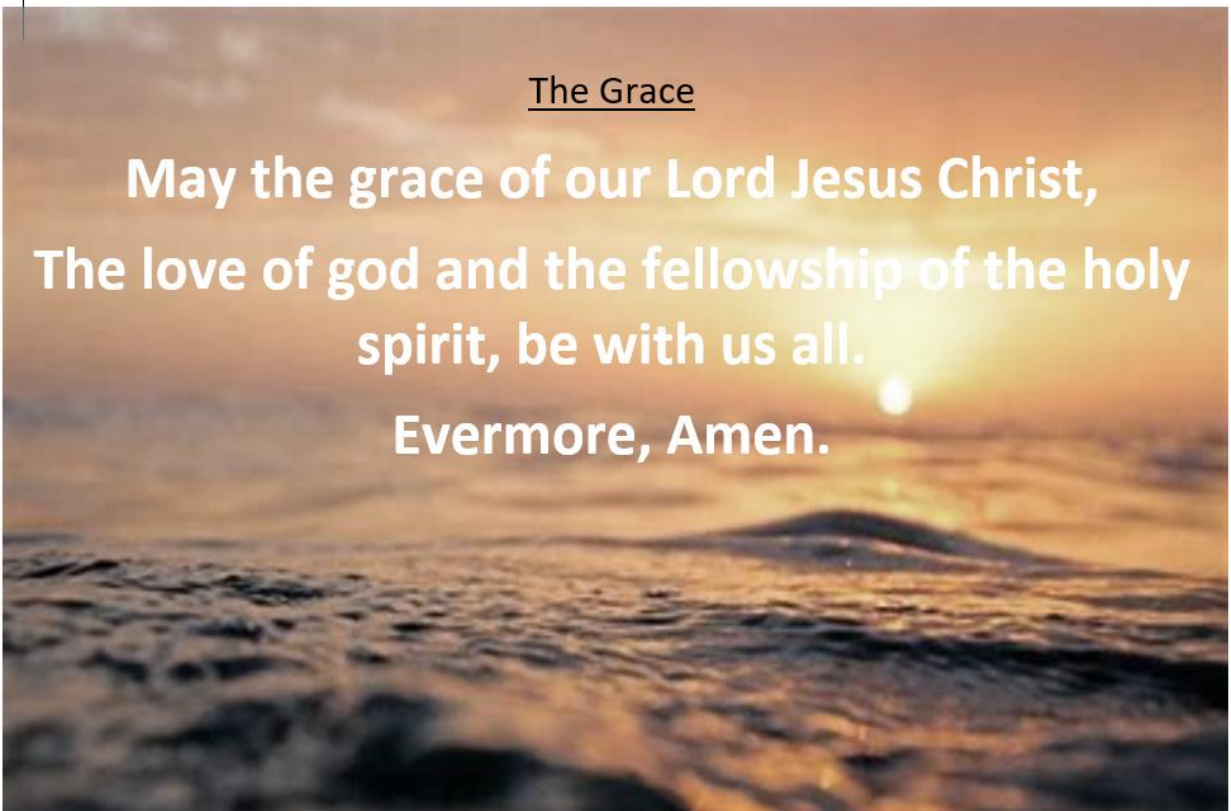
Amen



The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
The love of god and the fellowship of the holy
spirit, be with us all.

Evermore, Amen.



The image shows a decorative border of yellow stars surrounding the text of the Lord's Prayer. The text is centered and reads: "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 for ever. Amen". There are two images of hands clasped in prayer, one on the left and one on the right, set against a warm orange background.

The image shows a prayer card for the Lord's Prayer. It features a decorative border of yellow stars. The text is centered and reads: "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 for ever. Amen". There are two images of hands clasped in prayer, one on the left and one on the right, set against a warm orange background.

The image displays the Lord's Prayer in a decorative format. A border of yellow stars frames the text. The prayer is written in a simple, black, sans-serif font, centered on a white background. The text is as follows:

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 for ever. Amen

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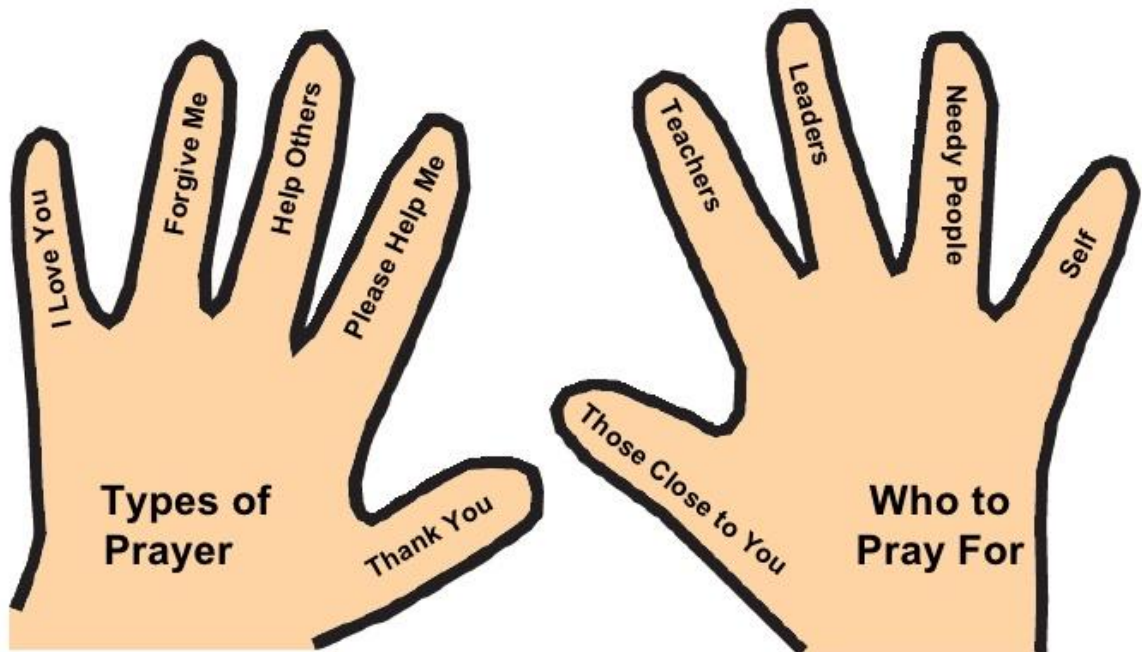
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Appendix 5: Hands for Prayer and Prayer Templates

Hands For Prayer



Prayer

Name:

I am happy for my prayer to be read out in worship. YES NO

Written in the school newsletter YES NO

Thank you Prayer

Name:

Dear.....,

Thank you

I am happy for my prayer to be read out in worship. YES NO

Written in the school newsletter YES NO

Help me Prayer

Name: _____

Dear.....,

Help me

I am happy for my prayer to be read out in worship. **YES NO**

Written in the school newsletter **YES NO**

Please Prayer

Name: _____

Dear.....,

Please

I am happy for my prayer to be read out in worship. **YES NO**

Written in the school newsletter **YES NO**

Teach me Prayer

Name: _____

Dear.....,

Teach me

I am happy for my prayer to be read out in worship. **YES NO**

Written in the school newsletter **YES NO**

Forgive me Prayer

Name: _____

Dear.....,

Forgive me

I am happy for my prayer to be read out in worship. **YES NO**

Written in the school newsletter **YES NO**

Help Others Prayer

Name:

Dear.....,

Help others

I am happy for my prayer to be read out in
worship. YES NO

Written in the school newsletter YES NO

I love you Prayer

Name:

Dear God,

I love you

I am happy for my prayer to be read out in
worship. YES NO

Written in the school newsletter YES NO