



# Collective Worship Policy

## Our Christian Vision

Collective Worship is central to the life of the school. It offers all our pupils and staff an opportunity to experience the core of our Christian vision, to express our sense of community, to develop a reflective approach to life, to explore the school's values, and to be encouraged in the pursuit of what is good and true and right. We invite all members of the school community to join our worship and experience prayer, stillness and reflection.

## Introduction

This policy should be taken and used as part of The School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our vision and aims and values as a Church of England school. It has been formally adopted by the governing body, in consultation with the Headteacher.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. Christians believe that all of life is to be lived to the glory of God. Collective worship is therefore at the very heart of the school's daily life and reflects its Christian foundation.

Worship is paying homage to that which is of worth. Christians acknowledge that supreme worth belongs to God who has revealed himself in Christ. In a CE school every act of worship is explicitly Christian and should reflect the basic tenets and traditions of the Church of England, while being educational and appropriate for all involved.

We welcome children of diverse religious, agnostic and non-religious backgrounds. The designation Collective Worship recognises the different background, experience and commitment of the children gathered in school and does not pre-suppose any particular religious' commitment on the part of those taking part in it.

In Collective Worship we seek to provide opportunities for children to offer worship to God, through Jesus Christ, without losing sight of either the different starting points of each child, or the need for the act of collective worship to take account of the developmental ages of the children.

Collective Worship fosters an awareness of God's presence and helps learners to think about the spiritual dimension of life. It creates an environment in which the school's vision is explicitly reinforced:

Pupils of other faiths will be encouraged to develop their personal faith in interaction with the claims of the Christian faith, while those who have no faith will be welcomed by being in an environment where the Christian faith is acknowledged and practised

In this way our Collective Worship is inclusive. It is sensitive to the range of people served by the school and seeks to spiritually nurture and to be a quality experience for all participants.

## 2 Attendance and Withdraw from Collective Worship

- ◆ Our Collective Worship encompasses the whole school community, those of Christian faith, those of other faiths, and those with none. Attendance does not presume acceptance of the Christian faith and no-one will be required to say or do anything that challenges their integrity.
- ◆ Upon entrance to the school, parents are made aware of the Christian basis of our teaching and it is therefore unlikely parents would wish to exercise their legal rights of withdrawal. However, if such a case should arise the parents concerned should consult the Headteacher of School.

### ◆ Aims and Objectives

- ◆ To engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship every day, expressing praise and thanksgiving to God and allowing children to respond to the presence, power and peace of God.
- ◆ To nurture an understanding God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and to deepen spiritual awareness, making space for children to explore and develop their ideas about God, about themselves and the world around them in a context of awe and wonder.
- ◆ To give expression to our school vision and shared values and so foster a sense of togetherness as well as concern and respect for others within the school and wider world. ◆ To articulate the link between our Christian ethos and Biblical teaching and help children make an informed choice about the Christian faith and values.
- ◆ To help children appreciate the key events of the Biblical story, develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and consider their own personal relationship with him.
- ◆ To explore varieties of Christian prayer and help children understand the nature and purpose of prayer and the part it may play in the life of individuals and communities.
- ◆ To model Christian prayer which is typically offered to the Father in the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, and to introduce children to Christian prayers, e.g. the Lord's Prayer.
- ◆ To introduce children to Christian language and symbolism.
- ◆ To enable children to experience the rhythm of the church calendar year through keeping special times in the Christian calendar and incorporating elements of Anglican liturgy ◆ To model the nature of Christian worship by having a Bible passage or reference to the Bible and prayer in all daily acts of worship and by offering a Eucharistic service once a term.
- ◆ To celebrate worship regularly in our parish church and to invite the vicar, Rev Cate to lead an acts of worship in school

- ◆ To experience different prompts for reflection and meditation by the use of paintings, photographs and objects as well as stories, poems and music.
- ◆ To engage everyone in worship and to celebrate the gifts that each child brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God.

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### Content and Organisation

- ◆ We create a peaceful and reflective atmosphere by establishing a sense of special time and place, e.g. by lighting three candles and with the help of music and silence. ◆ We have a clear beginning, using the liturgical greeting: “May God our Father” (care for us) “May the Lord Jesus” (teach us) and “May the Holy Spirit” (guide and encourage us)
- ◆ We offer thought for reflection, linked to a Bible passage and linked to a specific value each month.
- ◆ We invite interaction, e.g. through the opportunity to question or comment. ◆ We make use of symbols, songs or hymns. Our choices may serve the distinctive focus of any given act of worship but over time reflect the Trinitarian nature of the Christian faith. ◆ We invite prayer, making space for spontaneous prayer or using written prayers from the pupils.
- ◆ We use a range of resources including: Big Start Assemblies
- ◆ We invite children to take an active part in worship and involve them in the planning, preparation and evaluation. The school worship team set up the hall: moving the table, lighting the candle and getting songs and music ready. They also co produce church services with our vicar.
- ◆ We seek to make appropriate links with classroom activities, the curriculum and other aspects of school life to ensure our worship is relevant to the life experience of our school community.

### Weekly Pattern

**Monday worship** is led by the head teacher. It is an opportunity to develop spiritual awareness by exploring the world around us and by asking big questions.

**Tuesday worship** has a focus on how we live out our Christian Values, month by month.

**Wednesday worship** is an age appropriate reflection on the topic/theme/key question explored on a Monday.

**Thursday worship** is linked to the liturgical year and will be linked to a Bible passage or story.

**Friday worship** is a reflect and celebration of the school community. We recognise and reward pupils who have demonstrated our school values.

### Evaluation of worship

The pupils are asked to reflect on the importance of worship in their lives, we evaluate how worship supports their personal development and how the Christian vision of the school makes a difference to their lives.

## **Conclusion**

Every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take an active part in a high quality daily act of Collective Worship. We seek to specifically ensure that the act of Collective Worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter.