

# Parish CE Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy



*Parish Church of England Primary School*

### **British Values Curriculum Policy Statement**

**Parish Church of England Primary** is a school built on Christian beliefs and values. However, we recognise that our children are part of the wider British society, which is multi-cultural and multi-faith in its composition. We also understand that we have a crucial role to play in ensuring that our children become valuable and fully rounded members of society, who treat others with respect and tolerance and are fully prepared for life in modern Britain.

Where it is appropriate and pertinent we aim to teach, reinforce and develop our inherent British values both within our school practices (please refer to our British Values Statement) and within our curriculum coverage.

This statement outlines the key British values we actively promote within the curriculum.

- **Democracy**
- **Mutual Respect**
- **Individual Liberty**
- **Tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs**
- **The Rule of Law**

*Parish Church of England Primary School*

**Inclusion, Equality and Community Cohesion Policy Statement**

**At Parish Church of England Primary School we aim to provide high quality education which is inclusive and equips pupils for life- long learning. We strive to enable all pupils to achieve their optimum potential.**

We aim to promote inclusivity, equality and community cohesion as an integral aspect of our school development, permeating all our policies, in order to increase the learning and participation of all our pupils.

We recognise and value the varied life experiences and needs of all members of our school community. Our school is one in which the teaching, learning, achievements, attitudes and well -being of each child matters.

We are committed to ensuring that school practice reflects our inclusive aims by utilising resources both within the school and the Local Community, by responding to diversity and equality.

We aim to develop an acceptance of the British values of democracy, the rule of law, mutual respect, fair-mindedness and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

**The school strives to establish equal rights and inclusive values by having high expectations for all pupils, by valuing all children and through the sharing of the same philosophy by all staff, governors and parents alike.**

**Parish CE Primary School  
Policy for Collective Worship**

**1. Fundamentals**

(a) Christian emphasis

In this Church of England Voluntary Aided School, Collective worship is in conformity with the ethos statement and the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed.

The school's ethos statement is:

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

The school's Trust Deed states:

In accordance with The School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, Section 69 (4) and Schedule 20, section 5, the Collective Worship provided in the school, in the absence of a Trust Deed, is in accordance with designation of the religious character of the school by the Secretary of State.

(b) Collective Worship contributes to the working out of our Church of England **Ethos Statement** through our **Mission Statement** and the **aims** and **ethos** of the school, and therefore to the Christian Education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school.

(c) Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and meditation exercises at the end of the afternoon sessions as well as graces said before lunch.

(d) The Church of England

Forms of worship within our denomination differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship whilst remaining true to our Trust Deeds. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church and be aware of other festivals and celebrations in other faiths.

Whatever the approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These would include:

- the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- the nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- the central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- the central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- the importance of prayer;
- the central symbols of Christianity;
- the cycle of the Church year.

(e) Collective Worship is

- Communication with God
- Adoration praise and thanksgiving to God
- A quiet moment in a busy day

Worship is a time to gather together in the presence of God sharing, praising, teaching, learning reflecting and celebrating.

Worship could include a story, drama, role play, dance, poetry, Bible reading, music, singing and prayer.

Singing is a time to celebrate and praise God. A story, drama or role play a time to express God's word, a time to empathize with others and prayer a time to open our hearts to God reflect and speak quietly to him.

The links with local Churches are important. Clergy and their Youth Team visit school to lead worship on a regular basis. The school uses the Church for Key Services four or five times a year.

Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and the Y6 Leaver's Service in July.

Year 6 attend the Leavers Service at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral in the Summer Term.

Children visit the Church as part of the Religious Education Curriculum. The upper school experience the Communion Service. When possible, the children visit other Churches to see first-hand the layout and style of worship other Christian Churches use.

- (g) **Collective Worship and assembly.**  
The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply.
- (h) **Worship in the school, while reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development of pupils and their individual faiths.**
- (i) **Worship is planned on a two-year cycle, linked to the school's twelve Christian Values.**

## **2. Responsibility for the policy**

- (a) **The Head teacher will be in charge of the co-ordination of the policy along with the Personal Growth Team Leader and the SMSC Link Governor.**

## **3. Statement of broad aims**

The aims of Collective Worship in Parish Church Primary School are

- To provide an opportunity for the children to reflect upon God and to give Him honour through prayer and opportunities for silent reflection.
- To help children discover their place in the world and celebrate their gifts, talents and achievements.
- To highlight and nurture the spiritual dimension through experiencing worship.
- To provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship forms, including symbols and imagery.
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate major, and some minor, Christian Festivals.
- To enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God, and to the community, and to respect the integrity of all individuals as a child of God.

- To establish, explore, and reinforce the common Christian values of the school community such as love, peace, kindness, compassion and reconciliation.
- To encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both global and environmental issues and foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy.

#### **4. Organisation and Delivery**

a) The agreed pattern of weekly and termly worship, at Parish Church Primary School is as follows. All classes apart from Reception Class will meet together at 9.45am each day, in the down stairs hall, unless otherwise directed in the 'Communication Sheet'. The children will come in quietly to music. A good morning greeting will take place. The words "The Lord be with you" will be said and the candle on the focal area lit.

Worship will usually comprise of a hymn, reading and talk followed by a short explanation then conclude with a prayer or prayers, always including the Lord's prayer. The words "Peace be with you" and blowing out of the candle indicate the ending of worship. After notices the children will leave the hall to quiet music. Reception Class will spend five minutes a day to signify we are God's special friends until they are able to join whole school Celebration and Clergy Assemblies in the Spring Term.

b) All staff will lead their own worship in classes when required. The Head teacher, Deputy Head Teacher and Assistant Head Teacher will lead most assemblies. The Clergy and Worship team will lead assemblies fortnightly on Thursday. Class Assemblies will take place on either Wednesdays or Thursdays. Other Services and short forms of worship will take place in classes or when appropriate.

c) Collective Worship lasts usually around 15 minutes. Clergy and Achievement Assemblies may last a little longer. Church Services may take between half an hour and an hour.

Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt. Frequently pupils are involved in leading worship or performing through dance, drama or music.

- d) Opportunities for parents, family and governors to attend services are given, especially for the Class Assemblies and Services in Church
- e) A worshipful atmosphere is to be created and sustained, through the use of music, silence, the appropriate movement into and out of worship and through the setting and the use of the focal area (coloured cloth, cross, and candle)
- f) Worship will be distinguished from notices and other 'assembly' activities, by the above-mentioned words, lighting and extinguishing the candle.
- g) Each KS2 class will lead a Key Christian Festival Service at Church Y3 Harvest, Y4 Easter, Y5 Pentecost, Y6 The Leavers Service. Visits to Church for Communion Services will be lead by a member of the Clergy.
- i) The arrangements (or the possible arrangements) for any withdrawals. Advice is given at the end of this document.
- j) Because of the importance placed on the worshipping life of the school, children will not be withdrawn for extra tuition, music lessons etc.

## **5 Content and Approaches**

- (a) Please see the Collective Worship Overview (appendix 1)
- (b) Approaches will vary depending on the topic, group leading worship and the type of worship being lead., The range will include some of the following Adult and pupil led, story-telling, music and movement, drama, poetry, (rehearsed and improvised), visual aids, role play etc.

## **6. Resources**

- b) A selection of classical and modern music is used as the children enter and leave the hall.
- c) Easy Worship, Lap Top, Internet sites, Apps, the R.E syllabus and books aid the planning of worship.

## **7. Consultation, Management, Recording and Review**

- (a) The Personal Growth Team Leader will plan and coordinate Collective Worship.
- (c) Provision for staff development for the co-ordinator and for other staff, and any governor training for Collective Worship will be in line with the School Development Plan and priorities.
- d) Records of Acts of Worship are kept in the form of half termly plans.

Monitoring and evaluating of Collective Worship is recorded by pupils. This has been used to evaluate worship and then used in the action plan.

### **The legal requirements for Collective Worship in our school**

**(a) Legal Basis**

Collective Worship in Church Schools is governed by the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as well as by the Trust Deed of the School. The Collective Worship provided by the school must be in accordance with the Trust Deed.

**(b) Daily Worship**

Daily Collective Worship has to be provided for every pupil. This worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, separate Key Stage groups, year groups or house groups or in classes or tutor groups, but not in faith groups. Worship may take place at any time in the school day.

**(c) Worship in Church**

Worship should normally take place on the school premises, but may take place in Church on special occasions.

**(d) Parental rights of withdrawal**

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship and this provision and its limitations are indicated in the school Brochure.

The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England. 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 pupils from the religious life of the school.

**(e) Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship**

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Head Teacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese or District. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.

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