

# Parish CE Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

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

## **Vision Statement**

As a Church of England School our Christian vision is central to all we do. Our vision is:

**“Learning and Growing Together in Faith, Hope and Love.”**

The apostle Paul writes about these three core Christian virtues in his letter to the church at Corinth:

“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

(1 Corinthians 13:13)

These three virtues are not only important in Christian discipleship; they are also important to how we live our lives at Parish CE Primary School.

These values give us strong links to our PAST, as well as acting as a reminder of what is most important to us in the PRESENT and forming a basis for how we want to help the children in our care to learn and grow in the FUTURE.

They also connect our school ethos to the wider Church of England vision for education.

These 3 core values of Faith, Hope and Love underpin our approach to Collective Worship.

## **Rationale and legalities**

- ✓ The collective worship at Parish CE Primary School is in accordance with the school's Trust Deed.
- ✓ Collective Worship at our school reflects and reinforces the school's Christian Vision
- ✓ Collective worship is a legal requirement in all schools.

Church of England schools serve the local community which will include pupils of the Christian faith, of other faiths and of no faith. In drawing up this policy, regard has been given to the age, aptitude and background of the children in our school.

At Parish CE Primary School collective worship is central to our life and it reflects and explores the school's distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, spiritual development and well-being of all – pupils **and** staff. Worship offers our school community an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian ethos. It reflects our Christian vision and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

Collective Worship at Parish CE Primary School is planned to:

- be inspirational, invitational and inclusive. It should engage all present and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school, as well as themselves as individuals

- regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the school's Christian vision
- have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners (including adults) to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- encounter worship and prayer as part of the natural rhythm of the day
- help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide
- enable pupils to encounter the vocabulary of worship
- challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection and Stillness
- contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with something more than the obvious, something to wonder at and something to respond to
- enable worship to impact all areas of the curriculum
- be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance
- affirm and celebrate our shared Christian Values and beliefs as well as recognising the specialness of key multi-faith festivals
- Acknowledge the uniqueness of the individual, celebrate diversity, create a sense of shared values and of our common humanity within school, society and the wider world.

Collective worship provides the pupils and staff the opportunities to:

- worship God;
- experience a variety of styles of worship;
- celebrate:
  - ✓ Christian festivals (including Saints Days);
  - ✓ the specialness of multi-faith festivals
  - ✓ school values;
  - ✓ achievements (school, locally, nationally and internationally);
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer;
- develop a reflective approach to life and reflect on Christian values
- develop as a community based in Christian values;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship;
- feel safe and affirmed.

At times worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth;
- consider moral issues in a Christian context
- enhance social understanding;
- explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage

### **Leading worship**

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church. Pupils (such as our Ethos Team) are given opportunities to plan, lead and evaluate worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy. Occasionally leaders

from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at Parish CE Primary School include opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate;
- developing spirituality;
- sharing and experiencing differences;
- developing a culture of learning;
- building a sense of group identity;
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);
- learning how to behave in a large social group;
- exploring feelings and emotions;
- learning how to perform in front of an audience;
- learning how to respond to a performance;
- making visible the school's leadership;
- developing inner awareness.
- exploring fundamental British Values

### **Planning a Collective Worship programme**

Specific time is set aside for worship daily and we recognise the importance of marking it out from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by having a rota of inspirational music each week (a classical piece to enter worship and a contemporary piece to exit), lighting candles, being still and having time to offer our thoughts to God and also take moments for personal reflection. We also ensure that Christian Liturgy is central to our Worship with set openings and dismissals, a child friendly version of the Lord's Prayer at each Worship, reference to Bible verses and responses with which the children are familiar. Our children are becoming more familiar with the concept of the Holy Trinity and we refer to The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit in a way in which the children understand.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4 stage structure of planning including 'Gathering' 'engaging' 'responding' 'sending'. This is achieved through our 'windows', 'mirrors' and 'doors' approach to developing spirituality.

### **Entitlement**

**All** children, whatever their race, gender, faith, age or ability, are **fully included** in our worship times.

Adapted worship activities are available for those children for whom attending whole school worship would not be suitable for their nature of their needs.

Within the worship experience, books, materials and activities will be monitored to ensure that there is no race, faith or gender stereotyping within them.

**All parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship.**

### **Organisation and delivery of collective worship**

**Whole school worship** takes place four times a week. On a **Monday** we enjoy worship led by the Executive Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher. This will always focus on our value for the half term.

**Tuesday** is In Class Worship where our class worship captains (5-7 different children chosen at the start of each half term), prepare and lead worship based on the value for the half term.

**Wednesdays** are Worship through Song. This is led by SLT and the school's vocal specialist. Faith is explored through the joyous experience of collectively joining in song.

**Thursday** worship is whole school led by the Deputy Head, Reverend Rachel or the Ethos Team.

**Friday is Celebration worship-** Certificates, Medals, Living Values winners and other out of school awards are shared.

*Other teachers may lead worship across the week on occasion based on a theme or event relevant or current to their learning or based on a wider school PSHE theme or current Christian Value. This is always done through a distinctly Anglican lens.*

Each class leads one **class service** per year to which parents, friends and family are invited.

In addition to the above we have services led by **visitors and speakers**, for example speakers from other local churches, charitable organisations, other local faith leaders and speakers representing other faiths, cultures and religions.

The whole school and staff attend **church** to worship together with parents and friends and celebrate the major **Christian** festivals throughout the year. These special services are led by the children and the talk is given by a clergy member or a special visitor. Some examples are below:

#### **WELCOME SERVICE**

We hold a special service in Church for our new Reception children and their parents. Children receive a blessing along with a candle and an age-appropriate book depicting a story from the Bible.

#### **HARVEST SERVICE**

We hold a special Harvest Service in Church each October, which is led by the pupils of Year 5, and to which parents are invited.

#### **REMEMBRANCE SERVICE**

Head Boy and Head Girl lead us in a service of Remembrance each November.

### **NATIVITY PLAYS**

This is an important act of worship which is organised by the EYFS and KS1 phases. KS2 children and teachers watch a dress rehearsal before the children then perform their Nativities to parents and carers.

### **EASTER SERVICE**

This is organised by the staff and children in Year 3, accompanied by whole school singing. Parents are invited to attend and it is held at Church.

### **PENTECOST SERVICE**

Y4 lead us in a service about the Pentecost. Parents are invited to join us in Church for this important service.

### **END of YEAR SERVICE**

Each year, the children from Year 6 attend the 'Leavers' Service' at Liverpool Cathedral for all those children who are leaving Church of England Primary Schools in the Liverpool Diocese.

We also hold our own special Leavers' Service in Church each year in July, also led by Y6. Each child receives a blessing and a gift of a Bible.

### **Themes**

Themes are developed to ensure a **rich and stimulating** termly worship programme. They are planned to allow for the major Christian festivals and also to enhance and develop them. Key festivals from World Faiths are listed and built into our themes as appropriate. They link to a wide range of available worship resources including "**Values for Life**" and "**Roots and Fruits 1 and 2**". Children testify to enjoying the variety of delivery, styles, visitors, and songs which we share. They particularly enjoy interactive worship times including role play and prayers.

In Reception, we use Christian Aid's 'Big Justice Sack' to support In-Class Worship as part of our commitment to being a Global Neighbours School, encouraging the agents of change of the future.

At Parish we feel it is important to allow for flexibility and spontaneity and that there will always be a need to respond to events affecting our school and national community. Also, visitors leading collective worship may not wish to follow the set theme but to set their own.

### **Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust**

Our Trust hold termly Trust-Wide collective worship events which are wonderful occasions for all staff and children across the family of schools to come together. During these events, the Trust's Christian Vision and Values are celebrated. The Trust prayer is shared by all also.

### **Spirituality**

Collective worship provides us with an amazing opportunity to nurture the spirituality of everyone in our school community. Using a 'mirrors, windows, doors' approach we look at ourselves and others, the world around us and make a commitment to go out and do!

## **British Values**

Our school core Christian values of Faith, Hope and Love ensure that British Values are implicit and embedded in all that we do. This is part of our long-term plan to prepare our children for living in modern Britain where we value every individual person whether child or adult. We actively promote equality and diversity. It also means that we will promote through discussion, respect for democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths. Evidence for this will come from work in classes as well as the various pupil leadership teams. We will challenge opinions or behaviours in anyone who does not uphold these values.

## **Role of Subject Leader**

The role of the subject leader is essentially to work alongside staff and the link governor to plan, implement, monitor, review and support the delivery of high-quality collective worship. The subject leader monitors the standards of collective worship by observation and through pupil interviews and he/she also monitors coverage by scrutinising the worship evaluations.

### **Resources include:**

- A rich selection of collective worship books.
- Suitable music for the various themes.
- Appropriate pictures and photographs.
- Suitable artefacts for each theme will be used as appropriate.
- A Focus table/area in each classroom
- Central Table in the hall.

## **Staff Development**

The Collective Worship leader and staff identify resource needs and training opportunities to enrich collective worship, by developing staff skills and competencies, through appropriate courses and/or staff development time.

## **Policy Review**

This Collective Worship Policy is carefully monitored and reviewed systematically by the subject leader, in liaison with the link governor, as detailed previously. A full review of the policy is built into a two-year cycle.

## **Monitoring**

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out regularly. Useful strategies for collecting evidence may include:

- written observations
- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents and governors
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's (and staff's) attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- informal discussions with colleagues

## **Review**

The headteacher, governors and staff will review this policy every two years (or sooner if required)

Date policy agreed: .....

Review date: .....

Signed: ..... (Chair of Governors)