



**Bishop David  
Sheppard**

**CE Primary School**

Following Jesus, together we succeed

# **Collective Worship Policy**

Date: October 2022

Renewal Date: October 2024

## *Following Jesus, together we succeed*

**This policy has been adopted with the approval of the school Governing Body. It will be reviewed on an annual basis. This policy reflects the ethos of the articles agreed at the U.N. convention on the Rights of the Child.**

Collective Worship is an integral part of the education in our school. It is essentially Christian in character, reflecting our Anglican traditions and keeping Christ at its centre. It is the recognition, affirmation and celebration of beliefs, values and events we hold to be of central importance within our community. Collective Worship contributes to the spiritual and moral development of the children and is seen as special times where children feel secure and relaxed and share with others to foster a feeling of community as well as developing their Christian faith.

### **Purpose of this policy**

This policy explains what is meant by 'Collective Worship' and outlines why and when acts of worship take place. It also outlines the planning process and the elements of a meaningful and positive act of worship for our Anglican school. It ensures that the relevant Education Acts are adhered to. It also ensures the guidelines set out by the Governing body are adhered to.

### **Legal Requirements and Guidelines**

The 1998 (Chapter 31) Education Reform Act and Schedule 20 1992 Education Act lays down several requirements for school collective worship:

1. Subject to section 71, each pupil in attendance at a community, foundation or voluntary school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship.
2. The required collective worship shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
3. The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.
4. All acts of worship should be supervised with an adequate teacher/pupil ratio.
5. Parents may withdraw their children from some worships on religious grounds and are not obliged to expand on their reasons for withdrawal. Should pupils be withdrawn they must be adequately supervised by an adult.
6. Staff in a church school are expected to be present in collective worship.

## **The Aims of Collective Worship**

- To promote the school's Vision Statement, Ethos, Christian Values and aims
- To enrich the religious experience of pupils and staff
- To encourage a common ethos and the school's six Christian Values
- To contribute significantly to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
- To link to the life and worship of St Simon's church
- To enable all children to appreciate their value to God
- To be central to the life of this school and impact on the spiritual development of the whole school family
- To deepen children's spirituality
- To develop children's understanding of global issues

## **Objectives of Collective Worship**

These aims will be achieved by offering opportunities to:

- reflect upon God and offer worship
- consider and develop pupils' own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework
- celebrate Christian festivals
- feel a sense of awe, wonder and mystery
- develop a vocabulary of worship and to experience a variety of worship forms, including symbols and imagery
- explicitly establish, explore, and reinforce the six Christian Values of our school community
- make effective use of silence in reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer
- heighten awareness of the ultimate questions and the realities of life and to reflect upon them, to support their search for meaning
- develop community spirit and sense of belonging
- celebrate gifts, talents and achievements
- consider interdependence with the natural world

## **Principles of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship and Assemblies should be spiritual. They should:

- Include a time to be still and reflect.
- Constitute a special time – conducive to worship.
- Help children to feel calm, relaxed and secure.
- Include a variety of words, images and music.
- Include the opportunity for children to join in and/or lead the Collective Worship sessions.

Collective Worship and Assemblies should be inclusive. They should:

- Be God centred, related to pupil's own experiences and relevant to pupil concerns.
- Involve pupils as active participants.

- Match the needs of pupils.

The children undertake Collective Worship on a daily basis.

The whole school gather together for worship every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday led by the Vicar, Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and other staff members.

Class worship takes place every Monday with children gathering around a specific Collective Worship area in each class. There is a wooden cross, candle and Bible for use in the classrooms. These are set out during each act of worship. These worships are planned by the children in year 5 and 6. Reception meet daily for worship in class and attend worship on Wednesday with the whole school.

Nursery meet daily for worship in class.

### **Guidance for the planning of Collective Worship**

1. Children are expected to enter and leave quietly.
2. While in the hall, they sit in classes on the floor.
3. A hymn is sung relevant to the theme.
4. Children bring the symbols of Collective Worship, a candle, a cross and the bible, and place them on the table.
5. An opener is used to signal the start to worship.
6. A bible passage, story or poem will usually be read or told and a follow-on activity or discussion may often ensue
7. A time of quiet reflection will allow the children to think about what they have heard / discussed / learned about.
8. Children will be asked to think about what they will take from the collective worship or how it will change the way they behave or think.
9. Worship will include the Lord's Prayer or another prayer suitable to the message of the worship.
10. Children or the Worship Leader may provide prayers.
11. Our closer will be preceded by the school motto.
12. Parents may be invited to special assemblies or class assemblies.
13. Candles, music, images, role play, powerpoints and stories may be used throughout the Collective Worship.
14. The Vicar of the parish leads Collective Worship on a fortnightly basis and members of the local community are also invited on regular occasions.
15. The children attend St Simon's church to worship at the end of each half term. Parents are always invited to these events.

### **The role of the Coordinator**

The coordinator for Collective Worship is the Deputy Headteacher. The coordinator is responsible for the effective use of the budget, purchasing resources and identifying relevant professional development for staff.

Collective Worship planning is overseen by the RE Coordinator.

The Headteacher has responsibility to ensure implementation and co-ordination of the policy and the Governing Body is informed through the Distinctiveness Committee and at full Governor's meetings. The coordinator completes all the planning for worship and ensures that a timetable exists for the teachers to lead the Collective Worship.

### **Cross-Curricular Links**

Acts of Worship will mainly link with the RE syllabus and Christian Values, however, there are opportunities to include other areas such as Geography, History, Art, Music, Science, PSHE, Sustainability and International links through the use of stories, poetry and visual images. The articles from U.N. Rights of the Child may also link closely as well as links to Global Neighbours and School of Sanctuary status.

### **Special Educational Needs**

All pupils are to be included in Collective Worship regardless of any physical, learning or emotional needs they may have. Where necessary pupils will be supported or accompanied by additional staff to ensure inclusion.

### **Equal Opportunities**

The school's policy on Equality is adhered to in acts of worship.