



## **Collective Worship Policy Statement.**

### **Rationale**

Worship is essentially an inward experience, characterised by a personal response. An act of worship in school can only offer the outward forms and framework within which worship can find expression. It is our intention to lead children toward worship, providing an atmosphere and routine in which children can grow to explore their own interest in spirituality.

Acts of worship take into account the age, aptitude and family background of the children. They are based on sound educational principles and promote spiritual and moral development as well as being an educational experience, which links to the rest of the curriculum.

Worship is mainly of a 'broadly Christian character', and it is not intended to be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

A range of resources is used to enliven the occasion and to reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief.

Some assemblies will follow multi-ethnic themes reflecting the values or using stories from faiths other than Christianity. It is our intention not to undervalue the views of other faiths, however by the nature of this being a Voluntary Controlled Church of England School, Christian songs and prayers will link most themes in a common spiritual bond.

### **Role of the Collective Worship Committee**

The collective worship committee will be convened each academic year and will be made up of Head Teacher, RE Co-ordinator, Worship Co-ordinator and members of the student body. It may include the vicar, foundation governors and other members of staff who wish to take part.

The Collective Worship Committee at Church of the Ascension Primary School is responsible for:

- Meeting at least termly to discuss the development of Collective Worship at Church of the Ascension
- Helping to plan and lead some acts of worship
- Collecting feedback about Collective Worship in school

## **Aims**

**The following school aims are closely associated with this policy statement:**

- To create an atmosphere in which those who wish to worship can do so.
- To encourage an appreciation of the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them.
- To encourage a reflective and meaningful response to life.
- To encourage children to explore and share beliefs and consider the relevance of these to their own lives.
- To celebrate special occasions and festivals.
- To reflect on the lives of worthy people.
- To think about the needs of others and foster a sense of community.
- To consider and put into practice the values of school.
- To celebrate the achievements of pupils and staff.
- To promote our core values

### **Core Values**

The school has adopted six core values and attitudes which it promotes to staff, pupils and parents. Our core values are:

- Forgiveness
- Generosity
- Honesty
- Perseverance
- Respect
- Thankfulness

Each value receives a specific focus for one half term a year. These values are particularly prominent in the themes for assemblies.

## **Equal Opportunities**

All children have an entitlement of access to the Collective Worship of the School, regardless of race, gender or ability. The language of collective worship will be introduced and developed from Reception onwards. Procedures for the withdrawal of staff and children from collective worship are outlined below.

## **Withdrawal**

A written request is required from parents who wish to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. A form is supplied for parents to complete. All withdrawn children are supervised in the Library area outside the hall. A register is taken.

## Organisation

The arrangements for Collective Worship are reviewed termly and alterations to the main organisation are given to staff through the morning briefing sessions. The standard arrangements are outlined below.

Monday	10.25 - 10.40	Whole School	Head Teacher /
Tuesday	9.00 - 9.15	Whole School	Deputy Head Teacher or Visitor
Wednesday	10.25 - 10.40	Hymn Praise	Worship Co-ordinator + Staff Rota
Thursday	9.00 - 9.15 10.25 - 10.40	Key Stage 1 Key Stage 2	Staff Rota Staff Rota
Friday	2.45 - 3.10	Whole School Praise Assembly	Head Teacher

## Staff

Members of staff are encouraged to attend Whole School Assemblies and any others which they would like to take part in. All members of staff contribute by taking a phase assembly. We aim to be respectful of staff integrity. Staff who wish to withdraw on grounds of conscience may do so.

## Pupils

Pupils can be involved in:

- getting the hall ready, (e.g. preparing chairs, music and lighting.)
- singing.
- praying and meditating – through the Worship Committee.
- reading from The Bible or other texts
- helping the worship leader with drama or demonstrations etc.
- receiving praise for achievement.

## Visitors

Visitors are invited to take part in special assemblies. These include

- The local Vicar.
- Christian outreach groups.
- Charity representatives.
- Others with a specific contribution to make to our worship.
- Parents are invited to certain specific assemblies and festivals.

The suitability of visiting speakers will be assessed by the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher.

## **Music**

Music is used to create an atmosphere of quiet as the children walk in and out of the hall. The Worship Co-ordinator arranges the music. Songs can be chosen by liaising with the co-ordinator. A wide range of music in CD format is available.

## **Strategies**

A range of strategies is used to create effective assemblies. Every assembly has a prayer or time of quiet reflection and most have singing and music. Artefacts, drama, Powerpoint presentations, poetry, pictures, pupils' work and puppets are also used. The use of traditional Christian symbols such as the cross and candles create an appropriate atmosphere and a link with the local church practice. Traditional Christian prayers such as The Lord's Prayer, the Grace and the Blessing are used, in order to establish a link with the Church traditions.

## **Planning**

The Worship Co-ordinator considers themes for the Collective Worship programme and these are published for all staff leading worship to follow. The themes will promote the aims of this policy, and may link with or complement the R.E. scheme of work. These themes should not be seen as prescriptive and when appropriate, other themes may be introduced. Where necessary, or helpful, staff may also wish to take a theme or issue from an assembly and develop it within the classroom situation.

## **Worship in Church**

The school acknowledges the special relationship that it enjoys with The Church of the Ascension. The church is used for worship on a termly basis; at Christmas, Easter, Ascension Day and at the end of the summer term. The children from the Reception class use the church for their Harvest Festival service.