



## KNUZDEN St OSWALD'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

#### MISSION STATEMENT

*Encouraging God's Children with Courage, Compassion and Creativity*

#### OUR CORE VALUES

Kindness, Politeness, Patience, Respect, and Self-Control, all firmly rooted in Agape, Love

##### **KINDNESS/POLITENESS**

To teach our children to be kind and polite to all in good times and in adversity, as one has no idea what others are going through #justbenice

##### **PATIENCE**

To develop a community where God's love and grace can be reflected upon, and a positive peace of mind and purpose in life can be found

##### **RESPECT**

To foster respect for all in our school community, and compassion for those in the local and global communities

##### **SELF-CONTROL**

To teach our children to face challenges, developing resilience and empathy, whilst fostering self-confidence and a positive approach to learning

#### Our Vision

Through and with our biblical quote, '*Stand firm in the faith and do everything with love*' 1 Corinthians 16.13, we aim to create a loving school and work family community where everyone is valued and can flourish. Our quote is an affirmation that we are part of God's huge plan, and that, although the road may not always be smooth, we must be strong and be courageous. We stand firm in the faith, doing the right thing, not the easy thing and we do everything with love at the core.

### Policy Statement

At St Oswald's School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement.

## **'Inspiring God's Children through Courage, Compassion and Creativity'**

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

### Christian Values

Although difficult to define, we identify the values such as forgiveness, fairness, respect and tolerance of others, integrity, compassion, honesty and self-worth etc. These values are embodied in our school Bible quote:

## **'Stand firm in the faith and do everything with love' 1 Corinthians 16.13,**

Through these values children 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

### Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly and advice for withdrawal is contained in the school brochure.

### Planning, content and detail

The medium term planning of worship is based on 'Roots and Fruits'. A value is taken and explored over a half term on a two-year rolling cycle. The staff member leading the worship is responsible for the content of the session. Within this format there is scope and opportunity for other content such as the observance of the church year, acts of worship which stand alone and the celebration of good work and good behaviour. A range of approaches are used, including storytelling, drama, role play and visual aids.

The Worship warriors are chosen and trained at the beginning of the autumn term. The team is made up of seven pupils from year six and five children from years one to five who will take responsibility for Class worship on Wednesdays.

Each class leads worship once a year when parents, relatives and friends are invited to join us. This includes a summary of the value we have looked at over the half term.

Parents, family, friends, governors and parishioners are also invited to join us for class assemblies (once a term), Service of new beginnings (once a year for the new reception class) leaver's services (once a year to send the year 6 children out), Eucharist services (four times a year) led by various clergy members from the Diocese and other special events around the Christian calendar.

### **Organisation**

**Monday-** Whole School worship led by the Head teacher focusing on the Christian value focus for that half term. The worship begins with the children entering the hall in a respectful manner. The three candles on the altar table representing God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are lit and we all say the welcome words together. We then light the 'special candle' where we place all those people that might just need an extra prayer into the palm of God's hand, both the staff and pupils are encouraged to take a few minutes to reflect and pray and then we say the blessing together. The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with a prayer-there is always time for personal reflection.

**Tuesday-** Whole School hymn and singing practice includes the lighting of candles and saying the welcome words to focus the children's attention and aims to develop the children's understanding of new hymns as well as learning them. The session ends with a time for reflection or a prayer.

**Wednesday-** Class Worship using Picture news and Christian and British values, this is led by a group of pupils from years 1-6 (Worship warriors). This includes lighting of candles and a time for reflection.

**Thursday-** Class Worship using the weekly material from Blackburn Diocese and led by the Class teacher. This includes lighting candles, reflection and class prayers. Each class has a prayer book in which they can record prayers and answers to prayers over the year.

**Friday-** Whole school fabulous Friday worship is run by our senior pupil team and parents are invited to join us as we celebrate:

- Postcards home
- Lunchtime awards (based on using the fruits of the vine))
- Hot Spot days
- Catch me
- Birthdays
- Out of school awards/certificates.

### **Prayer and Reflection**

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. The school is actively developing the children's confidence in reciting simple liturgy. At the beginning of the whole school worship a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles. A cross is also displayed on the altar table.

We recognise the power of prayer and the comfort it brings. It is a time of quiet contemplation, a time to ask forgiveness, a time of peace and a time to reflect and be thankful. We respect the diversity of our school community, but come together in prayer. Each day, our children and staff are encouraged to think of someone they know, or someone in the wider world who needs an extra blessing that day for some reason.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by the children in each class. Prayers are also said at the end of the school day.

Every classroom has a Worship Area, where the Value of the half term is explicitly shared, along with the class RE topic, and where activities can be found for the children to complete over the half term. Children can use these spaces if they need a moment to reflect during the school day.

The school has a number of other quiet spaces, both inside and outside which the children are encouraged to use for quiet reflection over the course of the day.

### **Other Faiths**

At St Oswald's our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values and we are also committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

### **Record Keeping, and Monitoring**

A file is kept on the staff shared drive, recording details of each act of worship. This is updated each half term and links to Picture News and Blackburn Diocese resources are sent out weekly to all staff. At the end of each half a short evaluation is recorded. Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship.

### **Equal Opportunities and special needs issues**

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of Worship and Religious Education. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

Marie Mensah  
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