**RATIONALE**

Collective worship at Maryport Church of England School takes place daily in accordance with the provisions of the Schools Standards and Framework Act, 1998. This means that we provide a daily act of worship which is ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’.

The content of all our acts of collective worship is in accordance with the beliefs and practices of the Anglican Church (as required by the Instrument of Governance of this Church of England School).

This policy was agreed by the Governors Whole Child Committee and will be reviewed within four years. Visitors to the school who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of this policy.

**DEFINITION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Christian worship is an honouring of God. Worship stems from personal experience; it is a central characteristic of faith communities which are in relationship with God. We can never make anyone worship because it is an attitude of the heart focused on God; in the school situation ‘all’ we can do is lead people to the threshold of worship by providing a setting where they may worship God if they so wish.

**AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

We seek through collective worship to nourish those of the faith, encourage those of other faiths and to engage those of no faith.

 Specifically, we aim:

 • To provide opportunities for students and staff to explore and celebrate the Christian values on which the school is based.

 • To introduce children to a variety of forms of worship. Seeking to reflect the rich diversity of experience in the Anglican (and other Christian) traditions locally and around the world.

• To enable children and adults to approach the “threshold of worship” and particularly to support expressions of reverence, awe, wonder, gratitude, joy, serenity, contrition, expectation, assurance, respect etc.

 • To enable pupils to explore the use of silence for stilling, reflection and, as appropriate, prayer.

 • To heighten pupils’ awareness of questions relating to the ultimate mysteries of life and to explore the responses that have been made to these by people of faith.

 • To affirm the value and special gifts and status that Christians believe each person has in the sight of God.

 • To develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and of the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**ORGANISATION AND DELIVERY**

Collective worship takes place each day morning and usually lasts between 15 and 20 minutes. The whole school comes together on Monday and Friday with Key Stage and class worships on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The Thursday worship is led by representatives from the Diocese. Each worship begins with collective responses as the worship table is ‘set up’.

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship. We invite members of charitable organisations who offer their expertise to the school (For example NISCU, the NSPCC, foodbank) to lead us in worship. Class teachers and our Worship Leaders also lead whole school worship.

At Harvest Festival time, Christmas, Easter, Mothering Sunday the whole school, and our family and community, visits the church for an act of worship led by the children.

**CONTENT AND APPROACH**

We have a 2 year plan for Collective Worship which incorporates our Christian Values, with a strong emphasis upon our school’s unique vision. The basis for this planning is taken from the ‘Values for Life’ materials.

Each termly plan includes:

* links to the Church year
* Presentation of Bible stories
* Presentation of festivals from other faiths
* Links with PSHE, SMSC and British Values
* Opportunities for children’s participation through role play, drama, singing etc
* Links to the school curriculum

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| Monday | Whole school worship | Mrs Ormond  |
| Tuesday | Whole school worship  | Phase leaders |
| Wednesday | Key Stage Worship | Class teachers |
| Thursday | Class worship/Diocese (alternate weeks) | Yvette Ladds/Archdeacon Richard Pratt  |
| Friday | Whole school celebration | Mrs Ormond |

Our pupil worship leader group will regularly welcome and open the worship, lead prayers and assist staff. Once each half term they will also lead a full worship session.

**EVALUATION AND REVIEW**

The Governing Body are responsible for the oversight of collective worship. Alongside Mrs Ormond, they monitor:

* The implementation of this policy
* The termly worship plans

Each year the governing body seek the views of stakeholders to evaluate the impact of worship and to identify ideas for future development through:

* Meetings with the School and Worship council
* Informal conversations with parents
* Parental questionnaires
* Seeking the views of staff and visiting worship leaders

**WITHDRAWAL**

Our collective worships are invitational, inclusive and our values, delivered through a Christian perspective also promote character development in all. Parents however, have the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Staff have these rights also. Parents who have any concerns about the provision and practice of collective worship are encouraged to contact the head teacher to discuss this.

The headteacher will report to the governors the numbers (but not the names) of any children who are withdrawn and the arrangements that have been made for their supervision.