



# Maryport Church of England Primary School Collective Worship Policy

## **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.



# Maryport Church of England Primary School Collective Worship Policy

## **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, Tuesday and Friday with Key Stage worships on Wednesday and class worships on Thursday. The Tuesday worship is led by either Rev Susan McKendrey or Archdeacon Richard Pratt. 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

Monday	Whole school worship	Mrs Ormond
Tuesday	Whole school worship	Rev Susan/Archdeacon Richard
Wednesday	Key Stage Worship	Phase leaders
Thursday	Class worship	Class teachers
Friday	Whole school celebration	Mrs Ormond

## **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



# Maryport Church of England Primary School Collective Worship Policy

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**

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Staff have these rights also. Should any parent make such a request, appropriate arrangements will be made for the supervision of the children following consultation. 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.