



## Read St. John's Collective Worship Policy

**'Sowing the Seeds of tomorrow; growing in the light of the Lord'  
(Matthew 13 v1-23)**

**At Read St. John's we aim to unlock the potential for everyone to flourish whilst being rooted and grounded in God's love. We aim high, so together as one family, we can fly.**

In this Church of England Voluntary Controlled School, Read St. John, Collective worship is in conformity with the ethos statement and the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England.

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church Read St. John's.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

- (b) Collective Worship contributes to the working out of our Vision through the **aims** and **ethos** of the school, and therefore to the Christian Education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school.
- (c) Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The worship and prayer life

of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and meditation exercises in the curriculum generally and at the end of (morning and afternoon) sessions as well as before lunch.

Whatever the approaches, we expect that pupils 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.

- (d) Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- (e) We work very closely with the parish church 'St. John's.' Reverend Sue comes to lead our Worship in school each Wednesday. School visit the church regularly both informally or to lead an act of worship.
- (f) Collective Worship and assembly.  
The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply.

- (g) Worship in school, while reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development of pupils.
- (h) The provision of collective worship conforms to Diocesan policy.
- (i) In our RE sessions we follow the Blackburn Diocesan Questful Learning Curriculum throughout school.

## **2. Read St. John's Primary School Aims**

- To create a safe, happy and caring community where all individuals feel valued and special.
- For all school members to develop their relationship with God.
- To promote the growth of Christian values of trust, responsibility, forgiveness, service, compassion, friendship, perseverance and respect so the children learn to show tolerance, self-discipline, compassion and respect for themselves and for others.
- To offer a relevant and balanced curriculum, which will provide every child with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to reach their full potential.
- To develop lively and enquiring minds by encouraging natural curiosity and imagination, promoting a love of life and learning.
- To maintain high standards of behaviour, encouraging children to take responsibility for their own actions.
- To establish an effective partnership between home, school, church and the community.

## **3. Organisation and Delivery**

The length of worship may vary from day to day but is usually for around 15 minutes. Though worship is not designated as curriculum time under current DfES regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school. Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of the National Curriculum and Religious Education and frequently involves teaching and learning activities such as discussion and question and answer. Pupils may be read to or instructed or they may be asked to listen to readings or to think about and respond to a stimulus such as a work of art.

Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt. Frequently pupils are involved in leading worship or performing through dance, drama or music.

When any such activities occur, they may be counted as teaching time even though they take place within worship. It is appropriate that, in a Church school, worship and learning is seen as a seamless whole even though, for the purposes of recording teaching time, we distinguish between the two."

We have collective worship every day. Monday is a whole school worship led by the Headteacher and/or our worship leaders. Tuesday is worship through song, Wednesday's whole school worship is led by our Vicar, Reverend Sue, Thursday is class based worship based around 'Picture News' and Friday is Celebration worship. This gives us many opportunities for the whole school to join together in worship as well as the opportunity for smaller class worships.

- d) Parents and carers are invited into special worships, including, special worships around Christmas and Easter, award worships and class led worships.
- e) Music is used throughout worship to create atmosphere, to promote thinking, celebration etc. Children walk in and out to specific music, chosen for a purpose.
- f) Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their decision, however, as collective worship is central to our ethos so the Headteacher would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents. If pupils are withdrawn from collective worship the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned.

## **5 Content and Approaches**

- (a) The Collective Worship leader is Mrs Shaw (Deputy headteacher). She plans weekly themes for the Worships on a termly basis. This is often based on the Roots and Fruits and scheme. The themes for our worship are taken from the traditions of the Christian and other faiths and we often reflect the festivals and events of the religious calendars. Sometimes the themes build on topics we teach

as part of the school curriculum in Religious Education or Personal, Social and Health Education or in response to events either within the school community or in the wider local or national community. Our Worship Leaders prepare the hall for collective worship and select the music and hymn or song (based on the theme) each day.

- (b) A variety of approaches are used including e.g. adult and pupil led, story telling, music and movement, drama (rehearsed and improvised), visual aids, role play etc.

## **6. Resources**

- a) Roots and Fruits.
- b) God's Big Story - Blackburn Diocese
- c) Fischy music, Hymn Pact and Rend Collective

## **7. Consultation, Management, Recording and Review**

Daily acts of collective worship are evaluated on a daily basis by the member of staff who has planned and led the worship. Planning, recording and evaluation pro-forma forms are completed and given to the Headteacher. Pupils are also given the opportunity to evaluate collective worship. Monitoring of collective worship takes place on a termly basis by the Headteacher, Vicar or governors to ensure legal requirements are met and the school's policy is being implemented. It is the role of the Governing Body to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The policy is reviewed biennially or as legislation and/or guidance requires.

### **The legal requirements for Collective Worship in our school**

#### **(a) Legal Basis**

Collective Worship in Church Schools is governed by both the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts as well as by the Trust Deed of the School. The Collective Worship provided by the school must be in accordance with the Trust Deed, or in accordance with the tradition before we became a Controlled school.

#### **(b) Daily Worship**

Daily Collective Worship has to be provided for every pupil. This worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, separate Key Stage groups, year groups or house groups or in classes or tutor groups, but not faith groups. Worship may take place at any point in the school day.

**(c) Worship in Church  
Aided Schools.**

Worship should normally take place on the school premises, but may take place in Church on special occasions.

**(d) Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship**

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Head Teacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese or District. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese, (or, in the case of the Methodist Church, the complaint would be referred to the Superintendent Minister and then the Connexional Authorities).

Member of staff responsible: Joanne Shaw

Date policy written: September 2024

Date approved by the Full Governing Board: September 2024

Date to be reviewed: September 2026

