

## Newchurch St Mary's CE Primary Academy



*Learning through faith*

### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

In this Church of England Primary Academy, collective worship is in conformity with the ethos statement and the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed.

The school's Trust Deed states:

In accordance with The School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, Section 69 (4) and Schedule 20, section 5, the Collective Worship provided in the school, in the absence of a Trust Deed, is in accordance with designation of the religious character of the school by the Secretary of State.

#### **Vision**

Our vision is to:

- Provide equality of opportunity for each child to care for God's world and nurture a sustainable environment
- Guide children with essential skills for life within a creative, stimulating environment
- Give high priority to involvement with home, parish and community
- Promote a welcoming school community based on trust and mutual respect
- Celebrate achievement

#### **Values**

- Fruits of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22-23
- Christian ethos
- Enjoyment
- Forgiveness
- Encouragement
- Trust
- Kindness
- Respect
- Positive attitudes
- Fairness

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- Honesty

Collective Worship contributes to our Christian school ethos through the aims and values of the school and therefore to the Christian education we provide.

It is at the heart of our school life and the governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. As such, we ensure that it is of the highest standard. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and meditation exercises in the curriculum generally and at the beginning and end of the school day, in addition to grace before lunch.

### **The Church of England heritage**

Forms of worship within our denomination(s) differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship whilst remaining true to our Trust Deeds. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church.

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

Our school is closely linked to St. Mary's parish church.

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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.

Worship in the school, while reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development of pupils.

The provision of collective worship conforms to Diocesan policy.

Elements of the R.E. syllabus are delivered via school worship. Worship and R.E. are closely interconnected in our school.

### **Responsibility for the policy**

This policy was approved by the Governing Body in Autumn 2017 after a consultation with the teaching staff.

At present, the headteacher is responsible for the implementation and co-ordination of this policy.

### **Statement of broad aims**

To explore:

- A relationship with God, the teachings of the Bible, prayer and value of truth, love and goodness.
- What it means to put God at the heart of school life
- The meaning and practice of worship and faith
- Moral issues, personal values and beliefs

To encounter:

- Christianity in action
- Silence
- The awe and wonder of God and creation

To experience:

- Enjoyable, interesting and thoughtful worship
- Being part of the school family
- Achievements, joys and difficulties
- Opportunities to participate, offer ideas and be still and reflective

### **Organisation and Delivery**

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Collective Worship is planned and discussed with staff on a weekly basis around chosen themes and significant dates in the Christian calendar. Collective worship is held daily as follows:

- Monday: Whole school worship led by the headteacher
- Tuesday: Whole school worship led by the Collective Worship Squad (children)
- Wednesday: Whole school worship led by Reverend Julie Smith
- Thursday: Whole school worship led by the KS1 teacher
- Friday: a.m. Class worship led by class teachers  
p.m. Whole school worship led by the headteacher (Celebration Assembly), parents, governors and the wider community are invited to this worship

Collective worship is timetabled to last no more than 20 minutes each day although there may be impromptu prayers and worship moments in classrooms.

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.

Parents and governors are always welcome to attend collective worship.

Our whole school collective worships always include:

- An introduction
- A time for stillness, silence or meditation
- A time to listen
- A time to share and talk
- A time to sing
- A time to reflect
- A candle and a wooden cross is displayed at the front of the hall. A display depicts the current topics for each of the weekly collective worships and is at the front of the hall. Music is chosen weekly and is played to create an appropriate atmosphere as people enter and leave the hall. The school has a large repertoire of songs and hymns.

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Our while school collective worship sometimes includes:

- Stories from the Bible and scripture passage
- Pictures
- Recited learned prayers
- Hymns
- Artefacts
- Poems
- Games or activities
- Videos
- Drama/dance/role play
- Rehearsed presentations
- Powerpoint
- Responses

The prayer life of the class is evident in each classroom. For example, prayer boards, books and boxes created by the pupils are evident as well as Christian symbols and posters. In the main entrance there is a table where the children can freely drop a pebble in the water to create a ripple effect and say a prayer of their own making. Notices are always given at the start of collective worship. The start is signalled by the lighting of the candle. There is music at the beginning and end as pupils enter and leave the hall. Various Anglican responses are used during worship.

School worship is held at church to celebrate Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Education Sunday as well as once per half term where parents and governors are invited to join us. It is planned in partnership with the vicar and wardens.

At the church some school services have a voluntary act of Holy Communion.

Because of the importance placed on the worshipping life of the school, children will not be withdrawn for extra tuition, music lessons etc.

### **Content and Approaches**

Themes for collective worship are planned weekly. Ideas are taken from Diocesan advice and use a wide range of resources.

Ideas are linked to the observance of the church year, national and world celebrations, curriculum work, multi-cultural stories and weekly (or longer) themes. The timetable is flexible since there are often occasions when we respond to significant events that have taken place in our local or wider community.

We aim for all worship to be connected to the child's world. Plenty of interaction and a wide range of approaches are used. Visitors are welcome in our school and encouraged to lead collective worship.

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Music supports the theme.

## **Resources**

RE and collective worship resources are purchased as necessary.

A range of resources are used and stored in stock cupboards. They include books, artefacts, posters, pictures, story books etc.

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

The RE subject leader has a clear role in managing and developing collective worship throughout the school.

The weekly collective worship plan is posted in the hall for all to see.

Training is provided accordingly in the form of staff workshops, courses and Diocesan cluster groups.

Collective worship is monitored and evaluated using both formal and informal methods.

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

### **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 it became an Aided / Controlled school.

### **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, but not faith groups. Worship may take place at any point in the school day.

### **Worship in Church**

Worship normally takes place on the school premises but sometimes takes place in Church.

### **Parental rights of withdrawal**

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship and this provision and its limitations are indicated in the school Brochure as follows:

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The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

### **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).

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