

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL



Life in all its fullness

Collective Worship Policy September 2021

- A Christian school, where every child is encouraged on their journey of faith
- A creative, inspiring school
- An exciting, quality environment
- A happy, healthy and safe place to learn how to look after our bodies and minds
- An inclusive place that nurtures children's individual talents
- A school that enables us to develop our character

- Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To provide help to understand the nature and purpose of worship and to provide an opportunity for children to worship God
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs
- To experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation, encourage participation and response
- To contribute to the spiritual, moral and cultural development of children
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To develop the children's understanding of how spirituality can support of being British in every part of our lives
- To reinforce our vision of 'Life' in all its fullness through our Christian values (see 3.6)

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand collective worship to be a special act or occasion which provides an opportunity for showing reverence to God. Collective worship allows all members of the school to come together and participate. This is distinct from "assembly" which involves the giving of notices, the sharing of work and recognising the achievement of pupils.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our time together on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.3 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold collective worship times that reflect other religious traditions which are represented in the school and the wider community.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each daily assembly, which is normally whole school on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. We also hold separate KS1 and KS2 collective worship times on Tuesday and Friday during which there are opportunities for specific times of reflection.

3.2 We regard Collective worship as a special time and expect children to behave and respond in an appropriate way. Included in Collective Worship could be times of being quiet and thoughtful, listening carefully and participating in prayers and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

3.3 We also include prayer as part of our school day. A prayer is said at the start and end of the day as well as after lunch.

3.4 We also have class prayer boards to pray for local and global issues.

- 3.5** The head teacher or other members of staff normally conduct collective worship, but sometimes local vicars or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.
- 3.6** We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and values. These often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar, sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build upon topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum, particularly the Christian Character Education programmes. We plan our collective worship as part of a series of themes based upon the Christian values that underpin our school vision of “life in all its fullness”. These values are: Hope, Wisdom, Encouragers, Forgiveness, Resilience, Self discipline, Justice, Love, Thankfulness and Compassion.
- 3.7** Our Thursday collective worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. These assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements. This is an opportunity to be grateful for the gifts and skills given uniquely by God to us.
- 3.8** All children are valued and all achievements are recognised during whole school gatherings which promote the ethos of the school. Please encourage your child to bring in their achievements to celebrate. St John the Baptist C of E Primary School is a successful school and so we celebrate the successes of all the children and the specific gifts which God has given them or help they have received from Him in achieving their goals.
- 3.9** We invite parents to an assembly on a weekly basis and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children. Throughout the year parents are invited to come to special assemblies such as Dare and Year 6 leavers’ assembly.
- 3.10** Governors are often in attendance at our assemblies and collective worship times and contribute with our times of worship at church.
- 3.11** We regularly hold services in church with Parents and Governors always invited. These services are run by the vicar.

4 Right of withdrawal

- 4.1** We expect all children to attend assembly and collective worship times. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

5 Monitoring and review

- 5.1** It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the head teacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship in the summer term.
- 5.2** Children are part of the monitoring and reviewing processes for collective worship and their views are fed back into the development of collective worship.

The results of this are then fed back to the staff and considered as part of collective worship development.

Reviewed: September 2021

Review: September 2023

Reviewed by Staff: P Collins

Governor : Rev D Mayo