

## Collective Worship Policy

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<b>Our School Vision:</b>	With God's love, we live, learn and grow together		
<b>Our Values:</b>	Love	Courage	Friendship
<b>Linked Bible stories:</b>	Love - The Good Samaritan Courage - Daniel in the Lion's den, The story of Esther Friendship - David and Jonathan		
<b>Our Bible Verse:</b>	We love, because He first loved us. (1 John chapter 4 verse 19)		

Our collective worship policy takes into account the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as well as the requirements of our trust deed that "worship should be in accordance with the tenets of the Church of England".

As a Church of England primary school, worship permeates all aspects of school life. Worship can be defined as:

- A time for teaching and learning about God's Word and learning to live in God's world, as Jesus Christ lived and taught, for both adults and children.
- A 'gathering together' for praise and prayer.
- A time set aside for communication between God and us.

Collective worship takes place daily through whole school and key stage assemblies and occasionally, in classes. We also worship together in St. Andrew's Church, four times a year.

### Aims for Worship

To provide inclusive, invitational and inspiring opportunities for adults and children's spiritual development and reflections. *Following the statement of entitlement and expectation of Collective Worship in Church of England schools, 'Inclusive, Invitation, Inspiring' published in May 2021*

*Inclusive:* *Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, God.*

*Invitational:* *Worship should provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and engage with integrity.*

*Inspiring:* *Worship should be formational and transformational: it should enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do.*

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We aim for worship:

- To be an expression of the school's vision and values
- To foster an awareness of Church of England liturgy and doctrine
- To communicate with God through prayer and reflection, singing, celebrating and teaching
- To encourage a religious imagination
- To foster strong Christian values and reflect on them in our lives and relationships
- To develop the spiritual life of the whole school community
- To provide opportunities to gather together in fellowship, as part of a living faith
- To foster an understanding and love of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- To develop an appreciation of God's world
- To understand repentance and forgiveness
- To celebrate God in all people, linking with our British, cultural and moral values

### Collective Worship Timetable

Whole School worship	Two days (Monday and Friday)
Praise worship in key stages	One day (Wednesday)
Separate key stage worship	Two days (Tuesday and Thursday)

### Guidelines for Planning and Leading Collective Worship:

#### **Themes**

The Executive Head, Head of School and RE Lead plan and develop a termly themes list with regard to:

- Relevance to children and the age range concerned
- Links to the Bible
- Major events in the Church's year e.g. St. Andrew's Day, Saints Days, Harvest, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter & Pentecost.
- Fostering positive relations within our school community and with the wider church community

Over the course of the year themes will reflect a good balance of: British Values, SMSC, Old Testament, New Testament, and tradition and liturgy.

#### **People Leading:**

Collective Worship may be taken by any member of staff, during a typical week, assembly is led by:

<i>Whole school</i>	Senior Leadership Team RE leader Senior teacher
<i>Reception &amp; KS1</i>	Class teachers
<i>KS2</i>	Class Teachers
<i>Praise Assembly</i>	Head of School/Assistant Headteacher

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### **Worship Committee**

This is a group of KS2 children, who apply to the Head of School and RE Lead to join the committee. They meet regularly to discuss ideas for the worship rota and to select music and images for the weekly themes. They also collect prayers for a school prayer book. Once a term, with guidance from the RE Lead, the committee plan and deliver collective worship. They are responsible for all aspects of the worship; welcome, prayer, message, bible reading, drama and music.

### **Prayer**

Prayer is an integral part of life in a Church school and may be used in class or collective worship. Prayer should always be child friendly and relevant to their own experience.

Prayer is always invitational.

Prayer should reflect a balance of:

- Praise to God
- Petition relevant to topical events and/or pertinent to the school community
- traditional/liturgical prayer (e.g. Lord's Prayer)
- Prayers with responses
- Prayers written by the children

### **Hymns and Songs**

Collective singing is an important part of worship. Hymns and songs may be chosen according to the theme of the occasion. The children will learn a blend of traditional and modern hymns and songs. Music will reflect the diverse worship experience of the wider Christian community. Care is taken to ensure that pupils and adults do not feel compelled to sing strongly confessional lyrics. There will be no assumption of Christian faith of those present.

### **Music**

A variety of music is played to create an atmosphere of reflection as children enter and leave the hall. This is planned and may reflect music and cultures from around the world. Children are encouraged to play live music in collective worship.

### **Focus & Visuals**

We use a variety of artefacts and visual images to provide a focus for worship e.g. flowers, candles, a cross. Visual aids are encouraged as a means of creating and retaining interest.

### **Arriving and Leaving Assembly**

Children should arrive and leave in a quiet and orderly fashion. Music will be played at a level to encourage preparation for worship when arriving, and for peaceful reflection when leaving.

### **Participation**

Everyone can be actively involved in a number of ways: reading, drama, music and singing, response to questions and audience participation. We endeavour to vary the presentation and style of worship in order to include those with Special Educational Needs. Children of other faiths and those of no faith are encouraged to contribute their own world views.

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### **Reflection**

The children and adults are given opportunities for reflection as they enter assembly through music and visual stimuli. Within the assembly children have opportunity to reflect before or after the prayer time, in order to support their spiritual development.

### **Church Links**

Children attend the Parish Church several times a year and different classes take turn planning, preparing and leading the services. Governors attend the services and sometimes participate in leading the worship too.

Harvest	Led by Year 4 (Attended by Years 3-6)
Remembrance Day	Led by Year 6 (In school attended by Years 3-6)
Christmas	Led by Year 3 (Attended by Years 3-6)
Easter	Led by Year 5 (Attended by Years 2-6)
Leavers' Service	Led by Year 6 (Attended by Years 2-6)

EYFS and KS1 children have a separate Harvest Assembly in school.

The children make educational visits to the Church as part of their RE lessons and as part of the wider curriculum. Also, they may visit the church for special events e.g. prayer week.

### **Community Links**

From time to time groups of children will extend their service to the wider community, e.g. visits to sing carols in the Market Place and at the Forty Hall Carol Service.

### **Evaluating and Monitoring Collective Worship:**

- Collective worship is coordinated and monitored by the Head of School in conjunction with the governors, vicar and RE leader. The governors are invited in to attend collective worship and to feedback to the Head of School.
- Informal feedback is sought, between staff and the RE leader.
- Formal review of policy biannually with the Head of School, vicar and RE leader.
- Feedback from the children via the school council and pupil consultation interviews
- New staff are supported by the Head of School and RE leader as necessary.
- Resources are made available to the staff, either via a computer or books.

### **Equal Opportunities**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship if they so desire.

**Reviewed: Autumn 2022**

**Approved by: Curriculum Committee**

**Next Review Due: Autumn 2023**

**Monitored by: Executive Headteacher**