



## **Collective Worship Policy**

Monk Fryston and Saxton Church of England Primary Schools have a Church of England foundation. This means that our links with the Church of England are strong and our school ethos is underpinned by Christian values and beliefs and the teachings of the Anglican tradition.

In our schools, Collective Worship is central to the life of the school. It is a celebration of a strong community spirit, which is inclusive of ALL children and in accordance with the principles, and practices of the church. It enables us to enact our distinctiveness as Church Schools.

Through our Collective Worship we provide something important for the wellbeing of pupils and other participants; something that is unique and distinctive; something that is different from, but complementary to 'assembly'. However, in this school we use the terms 'Collective Worship' and 'Assembly' interchangeably as this reduces confusion for children.

### **The Legal Framework:**

Our schools are expected to provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils at any time of the school day as either a single act of Collective Worship or for separate groups.

Parental Rights:

Under the 1944 Education Act parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship.

### **Definitions:**

'Worship in schools will necessarily be a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to 'collective worship' rather than 'corporate worship.'

(DfE Circular 1/94 para 57).

'Collective Worship should be appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes'

(DfE Circular 1/94 para 22).

'The view of NASACRE and AREIAC is that collective worship can and should be an inclusive experience which, when done well, can make a valuable and highly positive contribution to life in general in all schools. All schools and academies should be meeting the legal requirements for collective worship. However, we are aware that in attempting to do so many institutions experience difficulties which stem from statements which appear in *Circular 1/94*. The circular is thus often a barrier to good collective worship. For this reason NASACRE and AREIAC advise that schools and academies should not use *Circular 1/94* but that their provision for collective worship should be guided by the legal requirements as set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA) and confirmed in the 1996 Education Act.'

(SACRE 2012)

### **Aims of Collective Worship:**

- To invite children to explore and respond to a variety of forms of worship, thus enabling those with a religious commitment to deepen their experience of worship and to allow those without a religious commitment to begin to appreciate what worship means for others.
- To enable children to approach the threshold of worship by fostering in them an attitude characterised by feelings such as humility, awe, wonder, appreciation, thankfulness, respect, reverence and elation.
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues and the many questions which relate to life, thus making a significant contribution to their broader SMSC development.
- To acknowledge the things which have meaning, value and purpose for Christians, the children as individuals, as well as for the school and the wider community
- To develop a sense of community within and beyond the school
- To encounter key elements of the Christian faith.
- To celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to individual children within school, to the school as a whole, or to the wider community
- To acknowledge and respect difference and diversity

### **Learning Opportunities**

Acts of Collective Worship will provide opportunities for children to develop new learning, as well as reflecting and responding to a theme.

There may be opportunities for:

- Individual response and reflection
- Listening and thinking about the world, themselves and others
- Introducing children to the use of Christian symbolism and religious language to express feelings and beliefs
- Sharing in experiences of e.g. sadness, excitement, joy, thankfulness, togetherness and challenge
- Silence, stillness, contemplation and prayer
- Celebration of the shared values in the school community
- Introducing children to Christian beliefs and practices

### **Organisation**

Collective Worship is arranged in a variety of ways.

Whole school 'assemblies' take place three times each week.

The Friday assembly is a sharing and celebration assembly to which parents are often invited. The purpose is to reward children for good attitude and effort during the week, it is also a time to say thank you for our lives in school. Award reinforce our core school values.

On the other two days in the week, Collective Worship takes place within the classroom.

Collective Worship is distinct from all other areas of the curriculum and separate from school 'assembly' when information is given out. Children should be aware of the 'specialness' of Collective Worship and this may be made explicit by the use of a 'worship symbol' e.g. cross, candle, special cloth, plant etc.

The Worship Team of pupils will be involved in the planning, delivery and evaluation of worship throughout the year.

On special occasions and festivals, such as Christmas and Easter, worship may be held in the church with involvement of the clergy, and families may be invited.

## **Prayer**

Prayer, which is inclusive and respects the range of beliefs of the children, can be used as well as prayers that are specific to the Church of England. However, while prayer may be an integral part of Collective Worship, it must be optional. Children may be invited to take part in prayer but cannot be compelled to do so.

## **Spiritual Development**

Opportunities for spiritual development should be fostered across the whole curriculum. This development includes:

- The recognition that there is something more to life than the ordinary
- The development of the inner life of each pupil
- A search for meaning
- A sense of values.

Collective Worship should contribute to the spiritual development of the child by providing particular opportunities:

- Being child centered and beginning from children's experiences
- Providing a special time separate from ordinary school activities
- Giving time for stillness and reflection and the exploration of inner thoughts and feelings
- Providing opportunities for children to share what is important to them
- Celebrating what is worthwhile in pupil's own lives and in the context of the school and wider community
- Creating an atmosphere conducive to peace and tranquility
- Fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect

## **Planning**

Acts of Collective Worship must be planned, monitored and evaluated.

The Planner/Record Sheet (appendix) must be completed for each act of Collective Worship and placed in the Worship File. It is not necessary to evaluate each one but notes can be made to support further work.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Collective Worship will be monitored by Governors and Senior Leaders against the aims of this policy. Children and staff will be asked for their views on the effectiveness of Collective Worship, and the outcomes of this evaluation used to shape future planning.

May 2023

R Weights

## Collective Worship Planner/Record Sheet

Theme/ Value:

Date:

Worship Leader:

Group:

### Aims:

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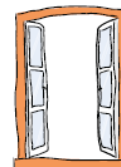
### Learning Opportunities

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**Welcome** (preparing to draw closer to God)



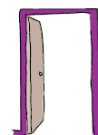
**Learning** (what is inspiring and thought provoking about God? - What resources will be used?)



**Reflecting** (how will we reflect upon what God is saying to us? - talk partners, music etc)



**Responding** (how are we challenged to take action? What multi-sensory prayer?)



**Resources needed:**

**Song:**

**Comments/Evaluation**