



*The caring path to achievement,  
reflecting the values of Christ.*

Headteacher – Mrs Diane Bate  
Chair of Governors – Mrs Lisa Cunliffe

# Collective Worship Policy

Re-adopted Spring Term 2016

Signed : .....(Chair)

Signed: .....(Headteacher)

### Mission Statement:

The caring path to achievement,  
reflecting the values of Christ.

### Our Christian values:

Friendship, trust, compassion, love, forgiveness, endurance.

### The Role of Collective Worship

Collective Worship occupies an important and unique place in the life of the school as it provides an opportunity for the members of the school community to pause from activity and gather together, to remind themselves of and to reflect upon the beliefs and values, which bind the school community together.

The term 'worship' applies to the activities of a faith community, rather than a school. Therefore, the policy addresses how collective worship can be consistent with the educational aims of a school community.

Collective Worship can play an important role in deepening the spiritual awareness of our pupils and staff. It provides an opportunity to reflect upon the value, purpose and meaning of life and life's events. Pupils and staff share an experience of quietness to counterbalance the busy activity that generally marks the rest of the school day.

Our aim is to facilitate opportunities of celebration and reflection through considering the Christian Values and learning from Jesus' character and achievements, as read in the Bible. Collective Worship is predominantly Christian, with the opportunity to hear stories and words from other religions and literature throughout the year. And so, special times of Collective Worship are planned in the school year to acknowledge the significance of key religious festivals from the main world religions and cultures. In line with legislation that states Collective Worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we place particular emphasis on the Christian festivals of Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. When looking at other religious festivals, our concerns are the reasons behind these celebrations.

## Personal Development through Collective Worship

Collective Worship contributes to a person's spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual development.

As outlined by both the DfE and Liverpool Diocese.

**Spiritual** development involves the growth of pupils' sense of self, their unique potential, understanding of their strengths and weaknesses and their will to achieve. RE enriches and encourages the pupils' discovery of God the creator, of their 'inmost being' and of the wonder of the environment.

**Moral** development involves pupils acquiring an understanding of the difference between right and wrong and of moral conflict, a concern for others and the will to do what is right. Within a church school, this is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, which offers pupils a secure foundation on which to make decisions and build their lives.

**Social** development involves pupils acquiring an understanding of the responsibilities and right of being members of families and communities (local, national and global), and an ability to relate to others and to work with others for the common good. As a church school, social development enriches pupils' understanding of what it means to live in a Christian community where Jesus' command to love one another is put into practice.

**Cultural** development involves pupils acquiring an understanding of cultural traditions and an ability to appreciate and respond to a variety of aesthetic experiences. Within a church school, this provides opportunities to develop an understanding of Christianity as a worldwide, multi cultural faith that has an impact on the lives of millions of people.

Intellectual development is promoted by providing an opportunity to learn and engage with their minds, have ideas concerning values that can be confirmed or challenged, reflect the importance of learning in the context of our school community, consider the power that words can have.

Consequently, it is our aim to touch one or more of the above areas in each act of daily worship, including praise time and celebrations.

## Non - Negotiables for Collective Worship

Collective worship should:

- Be planned, resourced and presented as a lesson would;
- Begin and end promptly (9.05 – 9.25);
- Have a focal point with a candle, cross and related artefact;
- Include Anglican responses, such as 'The Lord be with you, and also with you';
- Include Christian prayers, namely The Lord's Prayer and The Grace;

- Follow a structure which includes personal reflection time;
- Be treated with reverence, with staff and pupils entering and leaving in a quiet and orderly fashion.

### Preparation and Planning

Collective Worship follows the school's Christian values, with the RE/Worship Leader planning an overview for each half term. All teaching staff plan and deliver worship within their key stage. This can include involving children from the worship team where appropriate.

Each Monday, the head teacher leads or a member of the leadership team delivers a whole school act of worship. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday worship is in key stages. Thursday praise time is whole school again. Year 6 worship team members complete evaluations for the daily worship and this file is kept in the KS2 hall. There are many planned opportunities for children to continue their learning/reflection back in the classroom.

Over recent years, many resources have been purchased to help staff with the planning of their worship. More recently, school has subscribed to RE Today and Assembly Box.

### Visitors

Reverend Val, from St. John's Church leads key stage worship on Tuesday mornings.

Along with the head teacher, she plans and prepares termly Eucharist services for our KS2 children to attend.

Year 6 children are invited to take part in confirmation classes that are again led by Reverend Val.

### Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents and guardians have a legal right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship, providing they give written notification to the head teacher. Teachers can also exercise their right to withdraw from leading or attending acts of worship *but* attending assemblies is part of a teacher's contractual day.