



## **Collective Worship Policy for the Federation of Kirkby Malzeard and St Nicholas C of E Schools**

### **Rationale**

We recognise collective worship as a highly valued time during our busy school day where we gather to praise God, refreshing and inspiring our school community. It is a time to breathe and connect with ourselves, each other, our ethos, and our beliefs. It is the heartbeat of our school. Our Christian values of love, peace, kindness, and patience are built into our vision and are at the heart of our acts of 'Collective Worship'. We encourage acceptance of all faiths, spirituality and understanding of diversity through our acts of worship.

### **Our Vision**

**We believe that our children should have the aspiration and opportunity to 'Live life in all its fullness' John 10:10 and 'Shine like stars in the sky' Philippians 2:15. To have the courage to act with kindness, patience, love and peace in all the communities they serve in.**

### **Curriculum Intent**

**Our Curriculum intent supports our vision. In order that our children will achieve and excel in this, the golden threads of our curriculum will encourage the children to:**

- Become life-long readers**
- Be confident communicators**
- Be spiritually, mentally and physically healthy**
  - Be creative**
  - Be curious**
- Understand and embrace the wider world**

The Church of England states that:

*In Church of England schools, collective worship reflects the traditions of the Church of England and develops learners' understanding of Anglican traditions and practice.*

*Collective worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:*

- *Engage in an act of community.*
- *Express praise and thanksgiving to God.*
- *Be still and reflect.*
- *Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events.*
- *Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness.*
- *Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ.*
- *Affirm Christian values and attitudes.*
- *Share each other's joys and challenges.*
- *Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar*

Our whole school community engages in an act of daily Collective Worship. Acts of Collective Worship are invitational, inclusive and inspiring.

We understand invitation, inclusive and inspiring to mean (adapted from the 'Church of England' resources)

#### INVITATIONAL

Everyone is welcome to take part in collective worship, as much or as little as they are comfortable with. This means we use invitational language and carefully consider our choice of words and songs. Children are invited to pray but are not compelled or expected to do so; they always have a choice. We invite them to pray or reflect in whatever way they feel comfortable.

#### INCLUSIVE

Acts of worship need to be inclusive of all. Therefore, we choose topics and ideas that are shared by different faiths and worldviews. When we present Christian teaching, we make it clear that this is 'what Christians believe', saying things like:

'I wonder why this story might be important to Christians?'

'The story today comes from the Bible (the holy book of Christians), which teaches that ...'

Our worship should be accessible for children and young people with a range of different backgrounds, we also offer a variety of activities, so that children and young people with differing needs can all find something they can engage with.

#### INSPIRING

We aim for our acts of worship to inspire those engaging with them. How might it engage their emotions, enabling a sense of peace, comfort, hope or motivation? How might it inspire them into action, into thinking differently and considering their behaviour or actions? How might it inspire them to reflect on their faith or beliefs, and on the faith or beliefs of others?

Worship in our school takes different forms and sometimes takes place outside our school buildings.

Everyone should encounter a sense of occasion through awe, wonder and respect. Collective Worship is a partnership between all stakeholders, there is no hierarchy and all opinions and contributions are valued.

Children's ideas and views are explored and valued carefully ensuring that an adult led agenda doesn't take precedence.

We follow a *Gather – Engage – Respond - Send* principle for all acts of collective worship. The church year is reflected in the collective worship timetable. The Holy Trinity is clearly considered in our planning - the autumn term is dedicated to reflection of 'The Father', spring term 'The Son' and the summer term the 'Holy Spirit'. Pupil voice is collected as a part of acts of collective worship and is celebrated in lap learning books, journals and working walls, this feeds directly into our planning which is responsive and reflective to the whole school community.

Collective worship is led by staff, pupils, community members, local clergy and members of local community groups. Seating of children, gathering together, and ways of responding are all carefully considered.

### **Other opportunities for worship in our schools**

Children have reflection areas within their classrooms.

There is an interactive prayer station in the school environment.

The Christian calendar is celebrated throughout the school for example, seasons of advent and lent are recognised in a range of ways through craft days, advent challenges and acts of reflection. This gives children the opportunity to reflect deeply whilst working creatively.

The 'Sensory Gardens' and outdoor spaces such as wildlife areas provide time for stillness, reflection and thought.

We have registered our schools as a 'Prayer Space' with Prayer Spaces for Schools and will continue to develop 'prayer' and 'prayerful' behaviours within our schools.

Children reflect and give thanks through grace and prayer before lunch and during the school day. These are child led and do not need to be a learnt prayer or grace.

Children have led acts of worship at Sunday services at local churches. We share key events (Start of Term Service, Harvest, Candlemas, Advent, Christmas, Easter) through a service held at local churches.

### **Inclusion**

In our school we reflect, share and act on things that are important and meaningful in the lives of our children and community. We believe that self-esteem and confidence are at the root of learning. Children need to feel safe and happy in order to learn and achieve their full potential; our collective worship aims to embed safe practices, happiness, self-confidence and self-esteem.

Our school ethos and Christian values are embedded across all areas of the curriculum including collective worship. In God's eyes we are all God's children whatever a person's gender, ethnicity, physical or mental ability and this is reflected in all that we do at our schools.

### **Monitoring, evaluation & review**

The quality of collective worship is evaluated as any other area of the curriculum is. This includes

- The observation of collective worship by children, staff and governors.
- The staff, foundation governors and children are included in the evaluation process. This may take the form of an evaluation form for adults or discussion with groups of children e.g. school council, ambassadors, focus groups etc.

## **Right to withdrawal**

Collective worship is a special time and as such we expect all children to take part, however parents can request to withdraw their child. Under the terms of the Education Act 1944 (Section 25) parents may withdraw a child from part or all of the religious instruction or worship of the school. School will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the time.

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