

# Sparsholt Church of England Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

### 1. Rationale

Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the school's Trust Deed so for our school it should always be of Christian character. It is an opportunity for the whole school to come together. Collective Worship in school is inclusive, enabling all to take part. (NB: It is Community schools' Collective Worship which is defined as being "mainly" or "broadly" Christian.)

Our Collective Worship creates a time and space where we can come closer to God and God can come closer to us. Opportunities are given to explore and share beliefs; to consider the importance of prayer, meditation and stillness before God; to consider the relevance of faith ideas and beliefs to their own lives; to think about the needs of others and develop a sense of our Anglican community; and to appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them.

Our Collective Worship offers the opportunity to explore, interpret and put into practice our School values of Compassion, Courage and Creativity, where 'we let the teachings of Jesus guide us in all that we do.'

It may also provide time to celebrate the joys and challenges of members of the school community within the context of the Christian message of the week's theme.

### 2. Aims

Our aims concerning Worship are:

- To observe the religious cycle of the Christian year i.e. Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost.
- To observe Saints days and other key Holy days.
- To share in a commitment to dialogue with other faiths and celebrate shared values and beliefs.
- To lead worship in our local parish church once each term.
- To create a reflective spiritual atmosphere using entry music.
- To enable pupils to experience ritual in the shape and the vocabulary of worship.
- To use songs and hymns to enhance worship.
- To encourage and support pupils as worship leaders in school and church settings.

Our aims concerning **reflection** are:

- To use the bible as the source of sacred Christian texts for inspiration and learning.

- To provide an opportunity for pupils to experience worship in which God and Jesus are the foci.
- To foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy.
- To facilitate memorable and enjoyable experiences.
- To respond to the spiritual aesthetic in music, poetry, art, literature.
- To use visual foci and Christian symbols.
- To enable pupils to encounter the vocabulary and scope of prayer.
- To give pupils a variety of experiences to enable them to reflect. These will include, stories, drama, dance, poetry, music, mime and use of media.

Our aims concerning **personal development** are:

- To help pupils discover their place in the world.
- To highlight and nurture spiritual development through experiencing worship.
- To heighten awareness of ultimate questions of faith and to provide the opportunity to reflect upon these.
- To help pupils explore and develop their own spirituality.
- To support the search for meaning and purpose in life.
- To enable pupils to make effective use of silence and stillness in opportunities for reflection, contemplation, meditation and (where appropriate) prayer.

Our aims concerning **community** are:

- To reflect the school's nature as an inclusive community; to promote a feeling of community in the school through a sharing of experiences and feelings.
- To develop personal relationships and to encourage social and moral development.
- To affirm diversity and the right of each pupil to be treated with dignity, justice and mutual respect.
- To provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others.
- To provide an opportunity for pupils to become acquainted with people from the local and wider communities, including the local churches.
- To encourage respect and care for the world by nurturing a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues.
- To enable pupils to appreciate their worth and value in the community
- To celebrate gifts, talents and achievements.
- To help establish and reinforce the shared values of the school community.

### **3. Organisation**

Our Collective Worship will last for approximately twenty minutes.

We are now using the Diocesan planning format – SEAL: Gathering, Engaging, Responding, Sending.

A theme is chosen for each week to reflect the school year and themes relevant to our school. A variety of published and internet resources are used to support the planning. The plan may change in response to local, national or world events and will encompass important dates in the Christian calendar. Festivals from other religions will be recognised as part of our worship. Collective Worship will also take place in the local parish church for the celebration of key festivals. We aim for one visit each term.

Every effort will be made to involve visitors from charitable organisations, other denominations and the wider community.

The school will come together each Friday to celebrate the achievements of members of the school community. Peers and staff will nominate children for their achievements in behaviour and work.

### **4. Special Educational Needs**

Staff recognise the need to make Collective Worship accessible to all and as such a range of texts are used.

### **5. Role of the Co-ordinator**

The role of the Collective Worship Co-ordinator is:

- To lead the Worship team to plan themes and give guidance for staff.
- To adapt the plan in response to local, national or world events.
- To keep up-to-date with recent publications and developments in the thinking on Collective Worship.
- To liaise with the Clergy and Lay Worship Leaders of The Downs Benefice.

### **6. Participation**

It is a legal requirement that every child will participate in a Daily Act of Collective Worship. It is the right of parents to request that their children be withdrawn from religious assemblies if they are of a different faith. Parents wishing to exercise this right are requested to do so in writing to the Head teacher. Appropriate arrangements for the supervision of pupils will be made in consultation with the Head teacher, teachers, Governors and the parents.

### **7. Reference:** – Diocesan Policy on Collective Worship (2006).

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Person responsible: Mrs L J Laver, Head teacher

Governor responsibility: Chair of CC + Rev Jax

Committee responsible: Curriculum

Discussed by staff: March 2018

Discussed and agreed by CC: May 2018

Next review: March 2021