

# Portesham Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy 2016

## Philosophy

Portesham Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided school, worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community. It is attended by all students and staff, and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

## Collective Worship and the Law

Coming together daily in our worship to God to reflect upon our relationship with God, to consider our spiritual selves and our contribution to God's world.

Church schools in the diocese must fulfil two legal requirements for Collective Worship:-

- The legal requirement for Church schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.

“The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.”

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's ethos and reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in Church. Parents are aware that the school is a Church school and as such Collective Worship will be based upon the foundations and principles of the Church of England. This is done through the school prospectus and on the school website. The Governing Body are aware of their legal responsibilities and are clear of their statutory responsibility to uphold the Christian foundation of the school. This responsibility to uphold the Christian ethos and foundation of the school is made clear to staff on their appointment.

## Aims of Collective Worship

It is our aim at Portesham CE VA Primary School that worship should:

- Reflect the Ethos Statement and Mission Statement of the school.
- Be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils.
- Offer opportunities to worship God.
- Be inclusive and an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected.
- Offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church.
- Be regularly monitored and evaluated.
- Underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school.
- Celebrate the values and worth of the school community.
- Help children explore and develop their own spirituality.
- Enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs.
- Offer opportunities to share worship with parents, Governors and members of the local community.
- Celebrate special occasions in the Church year and the life of the community.
- Show appreciation for the God given gifts and talents of the school community.

### Responsibility for Collective Worship

The Governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met. The Senior Leadership Team takes on the responsibility for organising and planning the worship. The Senior Leadership work closely with the Churches of the parish, to enable a range of religious leaders to lead Collective Worship throughout the term.

### The Timing of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is given a special period in the school day; a time when various groups within the school can meet together for prayer and reflection.

- Worship takes place in a variety of settings; for example – in the school hall, in a class, in the local church and in the school grounds.
- The 1998 Education Act allows schools, on special occasions, to hold their daily Act of Worship elsewhere than in the school.

A typical week of worship will include:

The Vicar will lead worship on Mondays. Senior management will lead worship on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and Staff take it in turns on Wednesdays.

### The Planning and Evaluation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship is varied and there is evidence of this in planning.

Each week there is a theme for Collective Worship based on Values for Life. These are published at the beginning of each term for all staff. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

All of the school's Governors have a role monitoring Collective Worship at the school.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on Collective Worship and to be a part of the evaluation process.

### Monitoring of Collective Worship

The monitoring of the planning and provision of worship is carried out on a regular basis. The Governors have a key role in this process to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality.

At Portesham CE VA Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Head Teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal from the parents / adults with parental responsibility.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from acts of Collective Worship, however, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

In VA schools, teachers, including the Head Teacher, do not have the right of withdrawal.

### Resources

Resources for worship are kept in the hall and on the shelf outside the Head Teacher's office with RE discovery resources stored electronically on the school network.