



# ST BARNABAS CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Curriculum Committee
<b>LAST REVIEW DATE</b>	March 2014
<b>NEXT REVIEW DATE</b>	March 2017
<b>REVIEW CYCLE</b>	3 Yearly

## ST BARNABAS CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

This policy has been drawn up by the St Barnabas CEVC Primary School ethos committee.

#### Legal requirements

St Barnabas School is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School. It has a Trust Deed which states that worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England'. In accordance with legal requirements (School Standards & Framework Act 1998) an act of collective worship, taking account of the age, aptitude and background of pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents. The school expects that withdrawal will only be made following discussions with the Headteacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

#### **Rationale**

Our school motto is 'We Let Our Light Shine'. Collective Worship is at the heart of working out what that means in terms of school life and relationships with the wider community. We aim for acts of worship to be inclusive of all pupils and there is an expectation that all pupils will be present. It is a shared activity that allows for a variety of responses, and provides an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on stimuli which allow the human spirit to respond with integrity. The school is committed to respect the integrity of the religious communities from which pupils come. Collective Worship assists in embedding the values that underpin the life of the school. The school will also offer the opportunity to explore, reflect upon and respond to the mystery and meaning of the Christian faith.

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

Collective Worship aims to:

- Strengthen and support the school community and celebrate each individual member made in the image of God;
- Give expression to, reaffirm and practise the values of the school community;
- Allow reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings;
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including Christian festivals and those of the other faith communities represented within the school;
- Contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils;
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to:
  - Experience stillness and quiet and a variety of other forms of worship;
  - Respond to the language and symbolism of Christian and the other faith communities;
  - Help pupils to understand the nature and purpose of worship.

## **Planning**

In planning worship, consideration is given to:

- How worship reflects the Christian traditions, in particular the Anglican heritage;
- Using the 'Values for Life' framework to promote Christian values;
- Using the Bible and other religious texts as source books for inspiration and learning;
- Reflecting upon Christian and other religious symbols and their use in worship;
- Observing the cycle of the Church's year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost;
- Providing opportunity to discover the value of prayer, meditation and silence within the context of worship;
- A range of visitors from Christian and other faiths may be invited to lead or attend collective worship;
- Ensuring diversity and inclusivity;
- Linking with the broad dimensions of the curriculum;
- Creating an atmosphere for worship by the use of appropriate music, visual foci and symbols;
- Using the whole range of creative arts to appeal to the pupils' imagination;
- Organisation, including the following elements: gathering, engaging, responding and sending.

## **Recording and evaluation**

All acts of worship are planned and recorded, and there is a regular evaluation to see how worship was received. This is achieved by asking a child, teacher or class to reflect on the worship, and these evaluations are part of the ongoing monitoring of collective worship at staff meetings.

## **Monitoring**

The collective worship will be monitored by:

1. Discussion at staff and ethos committee meetings (minutes to be kept with the records). This discussion will include:
  - Review of content and methodology;
  - Suitability for age, aptitude and ability, variety of styles, groupings, leadership;
  - Links to curriculum and classroom experience;
  - Resources and budget;
  - INSET.
2. Attendance at worship by foundation governors for monitoring purposes;
3. Asking 'are the requirements of law being met?'