

# ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL



## Collective Worship Policy

**Reviewed September 2018**

Next Review: September 2020

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

A family founded on Christian values working and worshipping together, sending out happy, confident children achieving their full potential.

## 1. Fundamentals

- (a) In this Church of England, Voluntary Aided School, Collective worship is in conformity with the ethos statement and the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England.

The school's ethos statement is:

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church of St. Lawrence, Barton.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

In accordance with The School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, Section 69 (4) and Schedule 20, section 5, the Collective Worship provided in the school, in the absence of a Trust Deed, is in accordance with designation of the religious character of the school by the Secretary of State.

- (b) Collective Worship contributes to the working out of our **Ethos Statement** through our **Mission Statement** and the **aims** and **ethos** of the school, and therefore to the Christian Education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school.
- (c) Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life and the *Governors* see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and meditation exercises in the curriculum generally and at the end of (morning and afternoon) sessions as well as graces before lunch.
- (d) Forms of worship within our denominations differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship whilst remaining true to our Trust Deeds. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church.

Whatever the approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These would include:

- the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- the nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- the central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- the central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- the importance of prayer;
- the central symbols of Christianity;
- the cycle of the Church year.

- (e) There are close links with the parish Church and its worship. These include worship in church on special services such as Harvest Festival, the Leavers' Service and Mothering Sunday; members of the clergy from the Fellside Team lead weekly worship in school. The school visits church regularly to worship during the school day, including a half termly Eucharist Service and a non-Eucharistic end of term service. On Education Sunday each year, the school hosts Sunday Worship. During these services, parents and the congregation of St Lawrence are welcome to join us.
- (f) The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply.
- (g) Worship in the school, while reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development of pupils.
- (h) The provision of collective worship conforms to Diocesan policy.
- (i) Elements of the Diocesan RE Syllabus may be delivered during school worship.

## **2. Responsibility for the policy**

- (a) The policy is based on guidelines provided by the Diocese following consultation by the headteacher, staff, governors and diocesan advisor.
- (b) The person responsible for the implementation of the policy is the headteacher.

## **3. Statement of broad aims**

- a) To create an environment in which children and adults have the opportunity to worship.
- b) To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian Faith.
- c) To continue to develop links with the local Church and introduce pupils to the worship heritage of the Church of England.
- d) To worship God through Jesus.
- e) To contribute to the spiritual and moral development of the pupils in line with the principles expressed in the mission statement.
- f) To experience the joy of celebrating God's love.
- g) To feel part of a school family. Sharing the achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community.

## **4. Organisation and Delivery**

- a) The agreed pattern of weekly worship is 20-25 minutes with the whole school in the main school hall. This will usually start at 9.05 a.m. Friday worship takes the

form of celebration worship and families are encouraged to attend. In addition individual classes may have a time of prayer and reflection as appropriate.

- b) Collective worship will be led by the Headteacher, class teachers, the Vicar and visiting speakers.
- c) Though worship is not designated as curriculum time under current DfE regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school. Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of the National Curriculum and Religious Education and frequently involves teaching and learning activities such as discussion and question and answer. Pupils may be read to or instructed or they may be asked to listen to readings or to think about and respond to a stimulus such as a work of art.

Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt. Pupils may be involved in leading worship or performing through dance, drama or music.

When any such activities occur, they may be counted as teaching time even though they take place within worship. It is appropriate that, in a Church school, worship and learning is seen as a seamless whole even though, for the purposes of recording teaching time, we distinguish between the two."

- d) There are opportunities for parents, family and governors to attend on special occasions.
- e) A worshipful atmosphere is created and sustained by the use of music as the children quietly enter and leave the hall, silence and thoughtfulness through prayer, appropriate setting and display and the use of Christian symbols.
- f) Notices and other 'assembly' activities will take place *after* worship.
- g) Acts of worship in Church will usually take place once a half term and be led by a member of the Fellside Team. These occasions are determined by the incumbent and headteacher. Such occasions may include Harvest, Christmas, Education

Sunday, Mothering Sunday, Rose Queen Service, Leavers' Service, pupils' christenings. If appropriate the school may attend church weekly in Lent.

- h) Pupils withdrawn by their parents will do so after consultation with the Headteacher.
- j) Because of the importance placed on the worshipping life of the school, children will not be withdrawn for extra tuition or music lessons. Foundation Stage pupils will attend when they have settled into full-time school and it is felt appropriate by their teacher.

## **5 Content and Approaches**

- (a) The range of content will be organised each half-term by the headteacher and incumbent. This may include Bible stories, multi-cultural Secular and Faith stories, National and World celebrations and events, exploring common values and rules, sharing common experiences, worship ideas from charities and visitors.
- (b) The content will be organised through a fourfold approach consisting of: the observance of the Church Year, the celebration of curriculum work, weekly (or longer) themes, and acts of worship which stand alone.
- (c) The approaches used will be varied. Some acts of worship will be adult led others pupil led. There may be story telling, music and movement, drama (rehearsed and improvised), visual aids, prayers and reading, role play etc.

## **6. Resources**

- a) Resources are allocated in the school budget which is reviewed regularly in relation to the school development plan.
- b) There are a range of resources available for worship including:-

WOW Folder (staffroom)  
Music CDs (in the hall)  
RE syllabus (staffroom)  
God, Prayer & Spirituality (staffroom)  
Church life, Saints & Seasons (staffroom)  
Christmas Curriculum pack (staffroom)  
Various assembly books (headteacher's office)  
SEAL resources

## **7. Consultation, Management, Recording and Review**

- (a) The headteacher will organise and manage *Collective Worship* in accordance with the job description.
- (b) The staff, vicar and pupils may contribute or lead *Collective Worship* in consultation with the headteacher and other staff members.
- (c) The co-ordinator, incumbent and members of staff are encouraged to participate in the staff development provided by the Diocese.  
RE cluster meetings are regularly held at St. Lawrence School to which all members of staff are invited.  
The school buys into support from the diocesan advisor who has led inset for worship in the school.
- (d) Records of *Acts of Worship* will be kept as recommended by the Diocese.
- (e) The quality and content of *Collective Worship* will be reviewed regularly by the co-ordinator in accordance with the job description. The governing body will review the policy at regular intervals and areas for development will be addressed on the school development plan.

### **The legal requirements for *Collective Worship* in our school**

**(a) Legal Basis**

Collective Worship in Church Schools is governed by the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as well as by the Trust Deed of the School. The Collective Worship provided by the school must be in accordance with the Trust Deed.

**(b) Daily Worship**

Daily Collective Worship has to be provided for every pupil. This worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, separate Key Stage groups, or in classes, but not in faith groups. Worship may take place at any time in the school day.

**(c) Worship in Church**

Worship takes place either in the school hall, classrooms, or at St Lawrence Church.

**(d) Parental rights of withdrawal**

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship and this provision and its limitations are indicated in the school Brochure.

The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

**(e) Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship**

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Headteacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.