



## **Pauntley C of E Primary School**

### **Collective Worship Policy**

#### **School Mission Statement**

“Through our Christian values, the love and care of our communities and a willingness to succeed; we endeavour to create a learning journey that gives children a soaring belief in themselves to reach their full potential as they grow in to active citizens of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

Collective Worship is a fundamental part of the life of our school. It offers our children the opportunity to reflect, consider their own beliefs and values and to come together to share a collective sense of community rooted in Christian Values.

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship must be for all registered children on a daily basis.

We believe that Collective Worship is important because it provides opportunities for children’s Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development and we aim for Collective 'engaging, inspiring and transformational'. It provides children with time to develop an increasing sense of self-awareness, consider moral issues within a Christian context and to deepen their understanding of worship within a setting that is distinctively Christian.

Collective Worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection; this may also include hymn practice. This is introduced in an appropriate manner, e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image on the screen, moments of silence and reflection etc, and with a short time of quiet. The school provides a variety of opportunities and ways to allow the children to engage in prayer and reflection. However, it is not a requirement that children must engage in prayer if they do not wish to.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of children. An assembly is the coming together of members of the school that is for purposes other than Collective Worship. On some occasions assembly may precede or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens, the transition from Assembly to Collective worship will be marked in a clear and appropriate way. Worship within the school will be collective, as opposed to corporate, and there will be many different opportunities for the children to respond.

#### **Aims**

We aim to give children and school staff alike the opportunity to:

- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Opportunities to be still
- 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
- To experience and learn about different approaches to liturgical Anglican worship
- Engage in prayer and explore what prayer is

Collective Worship will also provide opportunities to contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child. Such opportunities may include:

- Experience of what worship is and what people do when they worship
- Explore, reflect on and think more deeply about important moral and social issues within a Christian context
- Allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- Foster a sense of awe and wonder

- Celebrate all that is of value in life
- Express their concerns, hopes and joy
- Have an opportunity to build a relationship with God
- Give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- Nurture their individual spiritual growth
- Celebrate the whole school community and the individual values that everyone brings
- Provide a safe space in which children can express thoughts and feelings
- Appreciate the values and beliefs that people live by
- Acknowledge and become more aware of the needs of others

A further aspect of our Collective Worship is that the school provides a variety of opportunities to allow the children to engage in prayer and reflection. Visits to the local church in the parish may also form part of Collective Worship.

We also aim to provide opportunities to explore the beliefs and practices of other Christian denominations and, where appropriate, people of other faiths and world views. These may include opportunities to:

- Develop respect and sensitivity for the beliefs and practices of people of other faiths and worldviews
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others
- To encourage global citizenship and social responsibility
- To encourage positive contribution to the wider community
- To develop a sense of increasing respect and understanding

### **Legal Status of Collective Worship**

The school shall make provision for a daily act of worship. The overall responsibility for the leading and monitoring of Collective Worship in the school rests with the Head Teacher.

The responsibility of planning for Collective Worship rests with the RE Lead.

### **Rights of Withdrawal**

We seek to be an inclusive community. However, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship.

Parents will be invited to a meeting to discuss withdrawal and to explore how their concern may be met. Parents are not obliged to attend such a meeting in which case withdrawal shall be put into effect immediately and the school will notify the parent. Withdrawal from Collective Worship may be in whole or part.

The School will provide a system of suitable supervision for children withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship in line with safeguarding procedures. However, no additional work will be set or followed in this time as this is a time for reflection.

The expectation is that all teachers will participate in Collective Worship unless they have requested not to as is their right in law, with the exception of teachers where it is explicitly stated in their contract.

### **Daily Acts of Worship**

The first Act of Worship of the term will set the scene for the term and reflect the Church calendar, our school ethos, key Christian Values and current events. Throughout the rest of the term daily Acts of Worship will take place.

Additional Acts of Worship throughout the week will include a class collective worship, hymn practice, worship led by a member of the local church (when available) and worship as part of the celebration of children's achievements that week.

Worship is held in the library, where there is a wooden cross as a focal point and candles are lit to represent the Trinity at the start of each worship. We have runners on the worship table in liturgical colours (see appendix), mirroring the church year. Music is played as children enter and leave the hall to encourage an atmosphere of reflection. The Lord's Prayer is recited regularly, along with our school prayer. A wide range of approaches are used in worship, including drama, discussion, reflection, reading, singing and prayer.

## **Themes**

We have adopted twelve Christian values that form the basis of our worship and wider school life.

Each value is looked at for a term and all worship is planned around this value, as well as being promoted throughout the school. Care is taken to ensure that understanding of each value is rooted in the Bible and the example of Jesus.

We have added in significant dates in the Christian year and days of particular importance such as Remembrance Day. We are also able to respond to local, national or world events (or a need from the children), that merit reflection and prayers.

A range of resources are available to all staff, including the Gloucester Diocese 'Values for Life' packs, 'Jack in the Box' and 'Roots & Fruits' by Shanhe Vickery and the 'Windows, Mirrors, Doors' reflection journals, which all children are encouraged to complete. Classes all have a special space that includes age appropriate Bibles and prayer books as well as a worship cloth, candle and other helpful resources and artefacts.

## **Planning, Recording and Evaluation**

Collective Worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation.

The content of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning. Each term there is a theme for Collective worship based on Roots and Fruits and the calendar of the church year. These are published at the beginning of the term. Those leading worship that week are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme.

During the week the children will have the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Class teachers develop and explore both within class worship and, where appropriate, wider curricular opportunities, their class worship from the themes and events that occur during the week. This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

The quality of worship is evaluated by the Worship Lead (Head). Children will form part of the monitoring and evaluation of worship.

The Governors, will have a role monitoring Collective Worship at the school. We also seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on Collective Worship and to be a part of the evaluation process.

## **Visits and visitors**

As part of the curriculum, the school ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship.

Before inviting speakers into school, teachers will complete the proforma in the Trips and Visits Guidance which is then authorised by the Head Teacher who is responsible for ensuring that the Prevent guidance is adhered to.

Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge. All visitors to the school and visits to places of worship are in line with the school's safeguarding and health and safety policies.

We ensure that all visitors are in line with the Prevent and British Values curriculum and that they have met with a member of staff pre-visit. Children also attend, where possible, whole school worship in church to celebrate annual Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

## **Resources**

Resources for Collective Worship will be kept current and funded as necessary.

# Appendix

## Liturgical colours

### **White:**

- From Christmas Day to the Presentation at the Temple (2nd Feb)
- From Easter Day to the eve of Pentecost.

### **Red:**

- Holy week; Pentecost; All Saint's Day (1st Nov) to the beginning of Advent.

### **Purple:**

- Advent; Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday

### **Green:**

- From the Presentation (2nd Feb) to Shrove Tuesday; from Pentecost to All Saint's Eve (31st Oct)

In chronological order:

White 25th Dec – 2nd Feb

Green 2nd Feb – Shrove Tuesday

Purple Ash Wednesday – Palm Sunday (Lent)

Red Holy Week

White Easter Day – Pentecost

Red Pentecost

Green Pentecost – 31st Oct

Red 1st November – Advent

Purple Advent – 24th December