

# St Peter-in-Thanel CE Junior School

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY STATEMENT

Collective worship is regarded as central to the affirmation of our Christian values and the distinctive character of the school. It offers important opportunities to strengthen our community, reinforcing the positive feelings we have for one another. Collective worship also makes a valuable contribution to our children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

### 1. Aims

The broad aims of collective worship include:

- To introduce pupils to the experience of Christian worship and teaching in an open and caring atmosphere;
- To foster a sense of unity by valuing and celebrating belonging to a caring school within the wider Christian community;
- To provide opportunities for expressing thankfulness and wonder for God's wonderful world;
- To develop a sensitivity towards an awareness of the spiritual dimension of life;
- To enhance the spiritual, moral and cultural development of pupils by encouraging reflection on moral and social issues;
- To create an awareness of our own moral responsibilities by drawing on Christian teachings and other resources;
- To encourage pupils to reflect on their own values and those of others;
- To encourage pupils to have confidence in their own religious tradition and to encourage understanding and tolerance towards other faith traditions;
- To enable pupils to express and understand their faith in a school setting;
- To foster school unity by celebrating the achievements of others.

### 2. Collective worship and the law

Approved by Foundation Governors 16.7.2016

Review date July 2017

We comply with the legal requirement that every child should be provided with a daily act of worship, unless withdrawn by his/her parent.

As a voluntary aided school the act of worship must satisfy the trust deed of the school that the worship is consistent with Anglican belief and practice.

According to the Education Act 1988 Section 9(3), parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of worship and the responsibility of the child remains the duty of the school.

As a Church School, with a clear statement of its commitment to Christian values, it is hoped that all parents would wish their children to take part in the provision for collective worship and would discuss any concerns with the head teacher before applying to withdraw their children.

### **3. Organisation**

Acts of worship take the form of whole school assemblies, individual class worship, upper / lower 'Praise and Reflection' and services in St Peter's Church and St Andrew's Church.

Whole school assemblies are led by the head teacher, the deputy head, a member of the clergy, a member of teaching staff or visitors such as Fegans or other charities. Whole school assemblies are held on Monday (Head teacher), Tuesday (Clergy) and Friday (Deputy head).

Services are held in the churches at Easter, Christmas and Harvest Festival, and on other occasions as appropriate (e.g. end of the school year). At these services the pupils, taken from all year groups, take an active part in the preparation and delivery: through writing their own prayers, readings, selecting of hymns and contributions made through music, artwork and drama. Parents are invited to attend these services.

All class teachers are committed to the value of collective worship in promoting Christian values and developing the overall ethos of the school. Worship in class groups takes place on Wednesdays for upper school and Thursdays for the lower school. Class worship involves children in a range of activities to encourage a sense of the act of worship being a special occasion and that religious ideas are not only expressed verbally.

Praise and Reflection takes place on Wednesdays for the lower school and Thursdays for the upper school. This gives an opportunity for children to explore the significance and meaning of the words sung in hymns and choruses appropriate to the Christian calendar and season. A time of quiet reflection is given and individual children or staff are given the opportunity to offer a prayer.

### **4. Planning and Co-ordination**

Whole school assembly themes are drawn up for each term in line with the Diocesan Board of Education resource 'Putting Worship at the Heart of Assembly', thus ensuring assemblies have a clear focus and continuity. The Collective Worship Coordinator distributes a list of these to teaching staff to enable assembly themes to be explored / referred to in class worship, curriculum lessons and P.S.H.E.

The coordinator is also responsible for the planning, preparation and coordination of the services held in the parish churches.

## **5. Delivery and Content**

The acts of worship are designed to be appropriate to the age range and abilities of the children in the school.

Although the format of individual acts of worship differ in content, the aim is to provide a varied range of styles and experiences, which include listening, singing, reflective silence and prayer.

Children participate actively in their classroom-based worship, in 'Praise and Reflection', in special church services and informally during other assemblies as invited by the leader of the worship.

## **6. Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation**

A central record of whole school worship is maintained. The coordinator keeps this record list of the date, theme/ content and leader of the worship.

Staff attend the daily acts of worship regularly, with all teaching staff present for weekly Clergy led assemblies. Governors also attend from time to time. The termly collective worship meetings provide a regular opportunity for monitoring the quality of collective worship.

## **7. Resources and Budgeting**

A variety of resources are available to support collective worship, including books, magazines and CD music. The Primary Assembly files are kept in the co-ordinators classroom. Resources for collective worship are obtained from a dedicated budget allocation. This budget also accommodates copyright licensing.

## **8. Church Links and Use of Visitors**

The parish priests lead the assembly on Tuesdays each week. The collective worship co-ordinator liaises with these, and other groups such as charitable organisations, over practical arrangements and worship content. Inclusion of worship leaders such as Fegans enhances community cohesion. Live worship music is provided on the majority of occasions by our music co-ordinator or our volunteer pianist.

Family services and Sunday school / Holiday club activities are published on the school newsletter. Upper school classes receive a copy of the parish magazine regularly.

## **9. Review**

This policy will be subject to review and revision in spring 2017

Approved by Foundation Governors 16.7.2016  
Review date July 2017