Worship Policy

Approved by the Local Governing Body 05/04/2022

**Daily Act of Worship**

Every pupil shares in a daily act of worship. This meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Act, which states that every pupil must attend an act of worship every day and that these acts of worship should be “predominantly Christian”. Collective worship is an important part of our life as a Church school. All staff have a vital responsibility to support the Christian ethos of the school. This can be achieved through positive support of worship during school life and the embedding of the Christian values through each learning experience. When pupils see that staff are positive about providing opportunities to explore values through learning and our own life experiences, this will also benefit what takes place during collective worship.

**Principles**

Guidance for Church Schools in Chichester Diocese states that collective worship:

* Should provide opportunities for pupils to encounter the traditions and tenets of the Anglican Church
* Should be explicitly Christian, unlike in community schools where “worship that is broadly Christian” is normal practice.
* The opportunity for collective worship in school is part of pupils’ spiritual and educational development as they experience varied religious and spiritual practices. The habit of setting aside times of stillness for careful thought / prayer is to be encouraged.
* Reflection about some area of wonder or concern taken from real life situations or areas of the curriculum can involve pupils in the spiritual dimension of human life. Within that time, pupils can also be invited to pray if they find it meaningful.
* The opportunity for worship can be further developed and this is to be encouraged.
* Active involvement of pupils in preparing and/or leading worship will enhance the experience and provide opportunities for participation.

**Church Links**

The school encourages the involvement of clergy from local Anglican Churches and Christian communities that support our students. The varied Christian backgrounds and allow pupils to have a richness of experience.

The school enjoys strong links with our local parish church, St George’s. The Rector normally leads collective worship in school every week. We maximise the opportunity of using our local church throughout the year for whole school acts of worship on significant days, and celebrations we share with our families and members of St George’s.

**Arrangements for Collective Worship**

Collective worship is held daily. These worship opportunities are closely linked to the values taught through our learning experiences. We focus on a monthly value which ensures that the values which underpin our curriculum are linked with biblical teachings. This is run over a two-year cycle (see table below). The Church of England’s Faith at Home resources supplement our worship opportunities.

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|  | Year A | Year B |
| **September** | Friendship/ Thankfulness (Harvest) | Creativity Harvest |
| **October** | Resilience | Belonging |
| **November** | Courage | Justice/ Fairness |
| **December** | Hope/ Christmas/ Advent | Patience |
| **January** | Inspire- people / Jesus - Parables | Pride |
| **February** | Responsibility | Cooperation |
| **March** | Humility/ Easter | Kindness/ Easter |
| **April** | Compassion/ Pentecost | Forgiveness/ Pentecost |
| **May** | Respect | Equality/ Diversity and Inclusion |
| **June** | Trust / Values 4 life | Honesty |
| **July** | Love | Achievement/ Flourishing |

### We enter the hall in silence to listen to a piece of music, a special table is placed in front of the children with a candle, and when appropriate, an artefact which supports the assembly theme. With this at the centre, children and adults are invited to focus their thoughts in a calm, reflective manner. The lighting of the candle signals the beginning of the act of worship. We extinguish the candle to signify the end of worship.

Each day we say ‘Grace’ at lunchtime and finish the afternoon with a class prayer.

**Monitoring**

Worship is reviewed and developed as part of regular school practices, including Pupil Voice and the involvement of Governors.

**Some general principles**

Collective Worship in the church school context should

* recognise that the community is a collection of people from a variety of cultural, faith and non-faith backgrounds reflecting the diversity of society
* be inclusive and interpreted in a way which is meaningful and sensitive to the range of communities
* offer quality experiences of worship which reflect the Christian foundation of the school and provide opportunities for the school community to encounter Anglican traditions
* meet the needs of all members of the school community and allow individuals to respond as individuals, including those pupils with special educational needs and disabilities
* be planned to meet the needs of all pupils through use of a variety of strategies (including singing and instrumental music; visual stimuli such as artefacts, pictures or special objects; stories, particularly those which enable pupils to come to terms with personal experiences through their capacity to promote self-reflection and understanding of the thoughts and feelings of others and drama, mime or dramatic reading)
* be implemented in a way that is consistent with whole school values, aims and purposes
* not pre-suppose shared beliefs, and should not seek uniform responses from pupils
* be separate from Religious Education. Collective Worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and should not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum. The act of Collective Worship must be distinctive and identifiable if it is to meet the legal requirements