

## **Policy: Collective Worship Policy**

**Date: November 2019**

**Review date: November 2020**

**Authorised by:**

**Updated by: RMillard Subject Leader**



### **Rationale**

Our school is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School. As such it has a Trust Deed which states that the school “shall always be in union with and conducted upon the principles and in furtherance of the ends and designs of the Incorporated National Society for promoting the education of the poor in the principles of the established Church”.

As a Church of England School we have a vision which is Biblically rooted and underpinned by Christian values. As a school we have chosen the four main values of Love, Perseverance, Truthfulness and Respect. The vision and underlying values inform our school’s ethos, the design of our curriculum, all policies, planning and the school’s management and governance.

At Upton, we value collective worship and it is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian foundation values and ethos of the school.

### **Legal Framework**

The law requires there to be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils which takes account of the age and aptitude (Education Reform Act, 1988). All parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. A request should be made to the Head Teacher in writing and then alternative arrangements can be discussed and agreed. Since this is a church school, however, worship is central to our life and work and is regarded as a very important part of a child’s education.

Our Governors have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact worship on the school community in consultation with the head teacher.

## Aims

Our school is a community inspired by the Christian understanding of God as Trinity: God the Father, the source of all being and life; God the Son, who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection; and God the Holy Spirit, who makes Christ known in the world.

All pupils at our school are important, and our ethos celebrates diversity of experience, interest and achievement. Through collective worship we promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development:

- *Spiritual development* – Collective worship offers an opportunity for prayer and for reflection upon the value, purpose and meaning of things.
- *Moral development* – The content of worship material (story, etc) will contain moral messages that promote positive shared values, providing children with an opportunity to reflect on matters concerning right and wrong.
- *Social development* – Collective worship provides an opportunity for the school to meet as a whole and to form a collective identity, sharing times of joy or sadness as a group.
- *Cultural development* – through its content, collective worship can develop in children an appreciation and understanding of faiths and cultures different from their own

Through collective worship in our school we aim to:

- provide an experience of worship that will allow children to respond to the presence, power and peace of God
- enable children to become familiar with the Bible and grow in their appreciation that for Christians it is God's word.
- provide regular opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer
- introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience
- explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci (eg Prayer Stone Bags) and introduce them to some well-known Christian prayers, e.g. Lord's Prayer
- offer opportunities to children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship
- strengthen and support the school community giving expression to and reaffirming the school's vision and related Christian values
- celebrate the gifts that each child brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God
- encourage children to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around them
- help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others
- foster a concern for others within the school and wider world
- foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it
- encourage respect of other people's religious beliefs and practices

## Organisation

Collective Worship in our school is organised as follows:

Day	Time	Group	Leader	Content
Monday	9.15 – 9.35am	Whole School	Head Teacher/RE Subject Leader	Values for Life/Church Year
Tuesday	9.15 – 9.35am	KS1/KS2 on rota in hall. Other KS class based worship	Class Teachers on a rota	Values for Life/School Year
	2:40-3:10	Whole School	Class	Class learning/Value Each class lead once a year (YR as a whole year group)
Wednesday	9.15 – 9.35am	Whole school	Class teachers on a rota	Praise and Worship through songs and hymns and prayer Or reading and worship to raise the profile of reading
Thursday	9.15 – 9.35am	Whole School	Class Teachers on a rota with the Open the Book team	Bible Stories/Values for Life
Friday	9.15- 9.35am	Whole School	SMT	Celebration/School community and worship

## Planning

We use the Gloucester Diocese's '**Values for Life**' alongside "**Roots and Fruits**" as a framework. This provides a whole school programme to teach Christian values in collective worship and across the whole curriculum. We also observe the cycle of the church's year, and have regard to topical issues and events in school, the locality and the world. We also draw on online resources such as **Imaginer**.

Each year, six of the twelve values are revisited. As a school, we focus on one value per half term.

Children are involved in planning worship within their own Class Assembly, to which parents and other family members are invited.

Our celebration assembly, is a public recognition of achievement across the curriculum, celebrating children's involvement in the full life of the school and of them living life to the full

We are involved in the 'Open the Book' project, which offers us Bible stories told by members of the local church community using drama and 'The Lion Storyteller Bible' and the 'Open the Book Bible Storybook'.

## Content

The **'Values for Life'** programme gives a basis upon which to plan each term's theme. We follow the pattern of Welcome, Learning, Reflecting and Responding in our worship, using the ideas of Windows, Mirrors and Doors to symbolise the elements.

We often use a story to learn from, usually from the Bible but sometimes from another of the principal religions. We also use traditional folk tales and modern stories. We sing a song or a hymn and there is time for quiet reflection on the theme of the assembly as well as a prayer.

Our School Prayer is used regularly, and is displayed in the entrance hall and on the school website.

Our worship reflects the Anglican heritage through:

- the use of the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning
- the making of explicit links between Bible stories and the Christian values of our school
- reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in worship
- observing the cycle of the Church's year: Advent, Christmas, Candlemas, Lent, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost
- the pattern of worship – welcome, learning, reflecting, responding
- the use of specific prayers including the Lord's Prayer, responses (The Lord be with you – And also with you. This is the day the Lord has made – Let us rejoice and be glad in it), hymns and worship songs
- the use of prayer - formal, pupils' own, silence/reflection and extempore
- the use of liturgical colours for the cloth on the worship table
- the provision of opportunities to discover the value of meditation and silence within the context of Christian worship
- the involvement of the Priest in Charge of St Leonard's Church
- the invitation to members of other Churches to lead or attend worship from time to time, thus recognising the strong commitment of the Anglican Church to ecumenism
- experiencing the bond of community which encompasses gender, age, race and religious opinion
- sharing in a commitment to dialogue with other faiths, shown in our inclusive ethos, the welcome we offer to all pupils and in the celebration of shared values and beliefs

### **Places to Worship in School**

Whole school worship usually takes place in the school hall, where we have access to audio-visual equipment and plenty of space. The classrooms and the Haven (outside worship space) are used for class-based worship. We acknowledge that prayer and worship can take place anywhere, and we are flexible in our use of space in and around school.

### **Making Worship Special**

In the hall, a Worship Table is used, covered with a cloth (green, purple, red or gold depending on the season) and with battery powered “candles”. We use three individual battery powered “candles” to represent the Trinity. A Bible is placed on the table along with a plaque showing a New Testament scene and the phrase “love one another”, a saying used in our school. Music is played as the children enter and leave the hall. Sometimes the lights are switched off to create a particular atmosphere. The large screen is used to show images to support the theme of the Worship and the use of the sound system ensures that everyone has access to the learning. Signing is used as part of the welcome.

The Haven has a platform, a living cross and a water feature that all may be used as central points for worship.

### **Special Events**

Through the year, we celebrate special events. New pupils and members of staff are welcomed individually and at the start of the school year. Our Year 6 leavers attend the Diocesan Leavers’ Service in Gloucester Cathedral and have their own ‘Goodbye Assembly’ at the end of the summer term. Staff who are leaving are also acknowledged in assembly, with children leaving mid-year being acknowledged in their own classes. Harvest Festivals (infant and junior), Christmas Carol Services (infant and junior) and Easter Services (infant and junior) are held at school or in the Parish Church and are planned with support from the Priest in Charge.

Events such as Book Week, Armistice Day, Anti-Bullying Week and International Week are also marked.

### **Visitors**

Visiting speakers from the local and wider community, welfare and charity organisations contribute to and enrich our programme of daily worship in school.

### **Involving Parents**

Details of special acts of worship and the stories told by the Open the Book Team are included in the weekly newsletter. Parents are also sent Home School Values sheets, which give background to the term’s Value and which will include ideas for discussion, often focusing on a story we have used in whole school worship. We welcome feedback from parents about our worship, the impact of our Values education and about Church services.

### **Spiritual Development**

Opportunities for Spiritual Development are fostered across the whole curriculum. However, acts of collective worship provide particular opportunities for promoting the spiritual development of pupils. These include:

- the recognition that there is something more to life than the ordinary
- acknowledging the capacity of pupils to reach beyond the everyday experiences of life
- the development of the inner life of each pupil
- a search for meaning
- a sense of values
- a sense of the transcendent
- searching for answers to some of life's ultimate questions

### **Resources**

The school budget includes a sum to be used annually for resourcing collective worship. Visual aids, artefacts and books are purchased regularly and are stored in the cupboard in the hall or in the Head Teacher's office.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

Worship is monitored by the Senior Management Team and by the Foundation and other Governors. Evaluations are carried out by Governors, staff and children.