

# ***Frittenden Church of England Primary School***

## **Collective Worship Policy**



### **Learning for Life in the Light of God**

| <b>Policy Control</b>      |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Responsible Person:        | Nichola Costello |
| Responsible Governor Team: | Circle Model     |
| Approved by Governors:     | January 2016     |
| Date due for review:       | January 2019     |

**Our school policies are written with the objective of continuously improving the school in our aim of realising the school's vision:**

#### **Our Vision**

To engage every child in an exciting and meaningful educational experience.

#### **Our School Values**

Frittenden Church of England Primary School values

**Compassion • Wisdom • Hope • Trust • Thankfulness • Forgiveness**

All our stakeholders are encouraged to *reflect* upon their learning and their actions.

## **Frittenden CEP School Collective Worship Policy**

*“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”.*  
William Temple (1881-1894)

### ***‘Learning for Life in the Light of God.’***

#### **Introduction**

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship will reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognize and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

#### **Aims**

Collective worship at Frittenden Church of England School will support our Mission Statement, by providing opportunities for students and staff:

- to explore a relationship with God in Jesus Christ
- to reflect on values that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognizing the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions and belief systems
- to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith
- to reflect on their own beliefs
- to deepen and widen the experience of those of ‘faith’ and encourage those of ‘little or no formal faith’ so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- to develop a respect for and an understanding of different beliefs
- to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of students coming together

#### **The Anglican Christian Tradition**

The following may be described as shared Christian elements of collective worship:

- Using the Bible, either as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church’s Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints Days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord’s Prayer and the Grace
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to rap
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection
- Using Psalms with simple responses – Taizé style

Whilst these are more distinctively Anglican:

- Using prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican sentences and responses e.g. *The Lord is here / His Spirit is with us; Peace be with you/ and also with you; Go in peace to love and serve the Lord / In the name of Christ, Amen*

- Using Collects as a focus for worship
- Celebrating Eucharist
- Encouraging links with the worship of the local Parish Church

### **Collective worship organisation:**

We hold acts of collective worship on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Acts of worship take place in classrooms, in the hall and St Mary's Church. Harvest, Christmas, and Easter Services are held at St Mary's Church, as is the Leavers' Service. Monday is usually a whole school act of worship in the hall; Tuesday is class worship in classrooms; Wednesday is whole school Praise and Reflection in the hall, as well as a child led worship. On a Thursday, the incumbent at St Mary's leads worship in the hall through the 'Open the Book,' approach. Every Friday we hold a "Celebration Assembly" to recognise and celebrate achievement in its widest sense; which includes the elements required for an act of worship.

The themes can include elements of the SEAL programme, British values, important historical dates, links to the curriculum and topical items but generally will follow the Canterbury and Rochester Diocese Assembly plans – linking in to other themes where appropriate.

- Use of the Bible and other sacred texts as a source for stories and teachings, emphasising common themes and ensuring the inclusiveness of the school community is reinforced. Moral tales/teachings and contemporary situations may also be drawn on where appropriate;
- Marking of appropriate festivals and other significant days;
- The Lord's Prayer, together with a range of Anglican and Christian responses are used;
- We aim to create an atmosphere of reverence, sometimes stillness and calm, and a respect for reflection. To aid this, appropriate music is played for entry and exit from the hall;
- Our usual format includes: Gathering, Engaging, Responding and Sending;
- The act of collective worship is kept separate from any notices or other items which may be included in this assembly time;
- It is intended that visitors are regularly invited to lead one of our whole school acts of collective worship
- Our daily act of collective worship is planned to last for 15 minutes

Children are expected to lead worship on Wednesday. The children in Shakespeare Class organise the act of worship in groups of between 6 – 10 children from all classes. They then use the theme or value from the diocesan plans, together with the Flippin Praise and other resources to plan and deliver an act of worship to the whole school.

### **Class-based acts of collective worship:**

- We aim to give our children some 'space' to be quiet and to think reflectively during collective worship in their classroom;
- These acts of collective worship may be led by the class teacher, Teaching Assistant or by one or more of the pupils
- These are planned to last for up to 15 minutes.

### **Use of Visitors**

The Headteacher is responsible for liaising with any visitors who come into school to lead collective worship. Practical arrangements such as timing, age range of audience and appropriate content are agreed through discussion.

### **Health, Safety and Well-being**

In collective worship we follow the school's health, safety and well-being policy. For example, appropriate care must be taken when using lighted candles and electrical equipment. In line with our 'net-safety' policy any internet resources used must be checked carefully by the worship leader, prior to their use in act of collective worship. In the event of fire all pupils must be familiar with exit routes from the halls and other areas of the school where collective worship takes place. Similarly, pupils must be familiar with exit routes from St Mary's Church. Visitors are not left unaccompanied with children/young people.

## **Equal Opportunities and Inclusion**

Collective worship will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, ethnicity, religion, gender and disability. During collective worship, if other religions are referred to, this will be in a fair and accurate manner, affirming diversity and equality.

## **Resources**

A range of resources is available to support teachers and pupils with collective worship and the use of appropriate websites to enhance worship is encouraged. An annual allocation, managed by the Headteacher, is available to purchase resources and for training purposes. St Mary's Church gifts the school £100 every December to be spent on RE resources.

## **In-Service Training**

Training by Rochester and Canterbury Dioceses is used, historically, together with support from our vicar. The Acting Headteacher has been participating in the Aspire programme.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

As part of the school's monitoring programme it is the role of the Headteacher and Foundation governor to monitor individual acts of collective worship and feed back to the Full Governing Body. This formal monitoring should take place three times per year and be reported on the pro-forma attached to this policy. Monitoring and evaluation of collective worship should be on the agenda of the Full Governing Body meeting at least annually. Other governors are also invited to worship when attending school for formal monitoring visits and a comment is encouraged in their report. To ensure consistency all governors use an agreed visits report pro-forma.

Leaders of Act of Worship are expected to evaluate the Act and children are encouraged to share their thoughts and prayers. Evaluations are kept in the Collective Worship folder.

As part of our pupil voice, a random selection of pupils are asked to comment on their experiences of and responses to collective worship at least once a year and further comments are invited from the School Council. Class teachers invite feedback from children on a regular basis. Staff discuss collective worship at staff meetings on a termly basis, recorded in the minutes of staff meetings. Parents are invited to comment on collective worship, e.g. via a questionnaire at parent consultation meetings, at least annually.

## **Self-assessment and Inspection**

School Self-assessment will be completed on the SIAMS Toolkit by the Acting Headteacher, the RE Coordinator and the Church Foundation Governor. We are inspected by both SIAMS and Ofsted. Ofsted make the final judgements about the quality of teaching and learning in R.E.

## **Parental Withdrawal**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship on grounds of conscience. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos so we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

Children who are withdrawn from collective worship for any reason are supervised by a staff member, however they are not offered an alternative act. These children generally read or engage in a quiet activity.

Date of validation..... Signed.....

Date of review..... Signed.....  
Chair of Governors

# Appendix

## Inviting Visitors to lead collective worship

When briefing visitors for school worship, make sure you tell them:

- Who exactly will attend, whether it will be the whole school or a section of it, and if so, which section
- What the school's aims, ethos and policies are
- How long the speaker is expected to talk for (10 – 12 minutes)
- The current assembly theme and context for the speaker - what has already been done and what will be done later in the term
- How pupils and staff are normally involved in collective worship
- What resources or hardware are available to them, should they so wish
- Exactly how much their contribution will be - is it just the talk or will they be asked to choose the hymn and lead the prayers and remember to:
- Give them plenty of notice - don't assume that a visitor who wears an RE or religious "hat" can produce an assembly at a few moments notice!
- Invite them to attend an act of collective worship beforehand so that they may see how the school conducts them, or, if this is not practical, lend them a copy of the collective worship policy document
- some visitors may also need to be told that collective worship is not an appropriate vehicle for hard sell evangelism, and that inclusive language ("we all believe...") is to be avoided

Visitors who are regularly involved in collective worship should appreciate sensitive feedback on the appropriateness of their contribution to the school assembly programme.

And finally.... NEVER leave a visiting speaker to take an act of collective worship alone, it is bad manners, bad educational practice, and bad churchmanship!