



# Collective worship Policy

School Policy

**Reviewed: July 2019**

Agreed By:

Date:



## **Our Vision**

We believe in the potential of every child regardless of background or individual needs. We are committed to providing an emotionally supportive environment, where pupils flourish, growing both spiritually and academically; securing foundations for each child to understand who they are and the unique qualities they bring to the world.

## **Introduction**

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of Koinonia, perseverance, honesty and respect and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise 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. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- 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 through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

In line with the requirements of the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that collective worship:

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- b) Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, and festivals.
- c) Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- d) Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.



### Implementation

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors in consultation with the collective worship leader. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class. Our school plans systematically and cohesively using *Rochester Diocesan Collective Worship Planning – A new approach to collective worship*) which is adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and this enables continuity.

Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies: This should include discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community.

Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

*We meet every day at 10.25am. We have whole school and Key Stage worship each week. We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT, art and questioning.*

Our worship consists of 4 elements:

- *Gather* – we welcome the community, for example, *with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle which is battery powered due to the children in SLIC often worrying about a flame.*
- *Engage* – we share, for example, *a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message and links to our vision or the value of the week.*
- *Respond* – pupils, for example, *discuss, question, share, reflect, pray or sing.*
- *Send* – we share, for example, *the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We often reflect upon how this will alter and enhance our lives. We close with a final prayer, music and the extinguishing of our special candle.*

Expectations of pupils:

Pupils regularly plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the collective worship leader during lunchtime club to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers. This is often a group of older children but has been a group of the worship club and the school council.

### Developing Worship

The school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of collect worship. The collective worship leader attends regular professional development with Rochester Diocese and accesses a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.



### **Self-assessment and Inspection**

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents via parent council, and pupils through our suggestion boxes and questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our *SIAMS group* and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Rochester (SIAMS).

### **Parental Withdrawal**

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

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

Chair of Governors

Date of review..... Signed.....

Chair of Governors