

## **'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16**

The example of Jesus Christ and the Good news that He brings inspire Canon Popham to be a place of hope and a caring and inclusive community in which we all can flourish.

# **Canon Popham C of E Primary Academy Collective Worship Policy**

Date agreed: September 2024

Review Date: September 2026

'Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name' Psalm 103:1

### **RATIONALE**

All pupils are required to attend a daily act of Collective Worship, and Canon Popham C of E Primary Academy affirms the importance of maintaining a professional and thoughtful structure to this statutory 'coming together', seeing it as an ideal opportunity to enrich the Christian vision and ethos of the school. The worship will be of a distinctively Christian character and in accordance with our trust deed. Worship is the heartbeat of our school and community and permeates through all of our teaching and learning. We are committed to providing for our children a meaningful opportunity to experience a Christian approach to worship, whilst paying consideration and respect to the beliefs and practices of other religions and non-religious world views.

### **AIMS**

To foster a sense of community, identity and self-esteem, where each individual is valued.

- To create a special atmosphere in which all participants might find an opportunity for prayer, worship, stillness and reflection
- To provide opportunities for individual reflection and response through explorations of feelings such as wonder, awe, humility, sorrow, thankfulness, delight, peace etc.
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate, using our gifts and talents.
- To be sensitive to the age, background and individual needs of all our children.
- To promote and strengthen the spiritual, moral and social development of all members of the school community.
- To be inclusive, invitational and inspirational

### **GUIDELINES**

Although RE and Collective Worship are distinct activities, we feel the common elements afford a unique opportunity to link the two, so enhancing the effect of both. Through careful planning the daily act of worship can provide an intentional learning experience, which promotes and enhances the rest of the curriculum. Additionally, the themes for collective worship form a common strand for everyone involved in their preparation and delivery, focusing the message of shared vision and values and promoting opportunity for meaningful reflection.

Collective Worship themes are chosen with the following in mind:

- Christian Values – including the school’s core values: Endurance, Compassion, Justice, Thankfulness, Forgiveness and Hope, that help to put our vision into practice
- The patterns of a year as depicted by the main religions.
- Concepts which are central to traditional Christian belief.
- Aspects of Christian Anglican worship.
- Stories from the Bible and other religious writings.
- Reflections on symbolism.
- Christianity in a multi-faith world.
- Whilst seeking to fulfil the aims set out above, care will be taken to explore a variety of approaches in a constant search for quality experiences. The following will, at various times, play a prominent part in Collective Worship: story, prayer, visual aids, drama, role-play, dance, music, stillness, questions and answers, visiting clergy and other visitors, children’s contributions.
- Parents have a right to withdraw their children from the daily act of Collective Worship. The Headteacher will be happy to discuss any concerns parents may have about this aspect of the school day.

## **CODE OF PRACTICE FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **Organisation, Content & Structure**

The whole school, including members of staff, meet together in school on Monday, Wednesday Thursday and Friday afternoon. On Tuesday EYFS/KS1 & KS2 hold Class CW as part of the myHappyMind programme of lessons.

Worship usually lasts approximately 15-20 minutes, but the length of collective worship may vary. Various people assist the head in conducting whole school worship and the vicar of The Church of the Good Shepherd conducts the collective worship on alternate Wednesdays.

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to collective worship, as do members of charitable organisations, to offer their expertise to the school. On major festivals or occasions (e.g. Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Leaver’s service), collective worship is held in The Church of the Good Shepherd.

Collective Worship follows the four elements of Welcome, Learning, Reflecting and Responding – which match the Windows, Mirrors, Doors strategy.

The **Candle** is lit at the start of worship, as children are asked to prepare for worship and to mark that worship has begun.

The **Window** is used as the symbol for an ‘OW’ or ‘WOW’ moment, and children are invited to recall an example of when they may have used the value previously.

The **Mirror** symbol encourages children to reflect upon how their learning about the value may have challenged or changed them.

Finally, the **Door** prompts children to consider what they might do as a practical response to their journey.

Although all elements of this may not feature in every worship, aspects will be used to structure worship and help the children grow their spiritual and moral development.

At the end of a half term each class in turn will present their learning and reflections on the value and the impact it has had on them as individuals and collectively as groups of people in the living community.

The following ongoing daily pattern is generally followed;

**Monday 2.45pm:** whole school worship led by Head of School, Assistant headteacher or on occasions, a visitor from the local community, e.g. local church, charity or organisation

**Tuesday: EYFS/KS1/KS2** - Pupil led class worship as part of myHappyMind programme of lessons in classrooms or outdoor areas

**Wednesday 2.45pm:** every fortnight led by Vicar, or on occasion a visitor or other minister, leads whole school collective worship.

**Thursday 2.45pm:** 'Let Your Light Shine' Celebration family worship led by Head of School, Assistant headteacher

**Friday 2.45pm:** Whole school collective worship: Songs of Praise

There are also regular class led acts of collective worship and teaching staff lead collective worship assemblies throughout the year.

### **Content**

It is the responsibility of the leader of each act of collective worship to plan for and to include a variety of ingredients within the clearly stated theme. This may involve liaison with the music or worship co-ordinator, where necessary.

The content of the worship can include use of stories, poems, drama, songs, visual aids, prayers, and moments of reflective silence, focal points, interactive activities for the children, slides or DVD presentations. A collection of resources is available in school as an aid to planning collective worship. It should be noted that an 'assembly' is not an 'act of collective worship' but a gathering of the school for other purposes, e.g. notices, behaviour chats etc

We have developed a range of themes and topics through which collective worship takes place. An overarching theme, usually based on one of the Christian values, is chosen for each half term and weekly planning is developed from this. Planning and evaluation is done around the 4 key parts of worship: Welcome, Learning, Reflecting and Responding.

Each act of collective worship will include some of the following elements:

- celebration of the major festivals of Christianity and of other faiths;
- presentation of Bible stories;
- topical matters from the news or the locality;
- using literature with implicit or explicit religious teaching;
- appreciation of the natural world and human activity;
- appreciation of the talents, achievements and work of ourselves and others;
- visitors who represent organisations who have a brief acceptable to the school;
- prayer in different forms – e.g. formal, children's own, silence and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others and quiet reflection;
- use of music (this will include CDs as an introduction and conclusion, singing and instrumental playing by members of the school), drama etc;
- use of appropriate artefacts and focal points (candle, cross, flowers etc.)
- participation by the children;
- using collects, responses, hymns and psalms as a focus for short acts of worship.

### **Class Worship**

All classrooms have a reflection area that is set up and changed with the children each half term.

These areas support the class worship and contain many of the artefacts and resources needed for class worship and reflection –e.g. candles, cross, Bible, prayer and response opportunities.

### **Training/ Resources**

Opportunities are provided for staff to access training for CW, plus staff meeting and Inset time is used to train, support and keep staff up to date with Collective Worship requirements and ideas. The school budget includes an annual sum to be used for resourcing collective worship. Books, IT resources, visual aids (artefacts, posters, drapes etc) are purchased regularly

### **Planning and Record Keeping**

A system of planning and recording documents is kept in school. The planning documents, rotas and themes are discussed and then distributed to staff at the beginning of each term. These are also displayed on the staffroom notice board. Any plans relating to worship are kept fully up to date. These plans are kept over time to avoid repetition of stories and other elements of worship, whilst ensuring a breadth of approach is used.

### **Visitors**

Each visitor is communicated with by the collective worship co-ordinator/Head of School. They are briefed on school policy and the aims for collective worship. Themes are discussed and suggestions made as to the content of each act of collective worship. Should any problems occur with an act of collective worship the head of school undertakes to deal with these.

### **CONCLUSION**

The daily Act of Collective Worship can help our school to become a living community in which we learn to develop a reflective approach to life, recognising the importance of Christian values and growing together in mutual love and respect. Worship will nurture those of faith, encourage those of other faiths and challenge those of no faith.

The policy will be reviewed and evaluated every two years in accordance with the school's monitoring schedule.