

# Chidham Parochial Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

### School Vision:

*'A happy school where every learner will have the support and encouragement they need to enjoy their learning, make good progress, and be successful in achieving to the very best of their ability'.*

*John 15 v 12 " Love each other as I have loved you"*

Written: September 2019

## **Chidham Parochial Primary School Collective Worship Policy**

### **Policy Statement:**

At Chidham Parochial Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life.

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our school family life together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

### **Christian Values:**

We identify the values of friendship, generosity, honesty, perseverance, respect and responsibility. These values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

John 15:12 "...love each other as I have loved you."

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

### **Legal Requirements:**

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

**Organisation:**

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is:

Monday - Headteacher leads worship - achievers and setting the worship theme for the week

Tuesday - Teachers leads whole school worship

Wednesday - Father Martin leads whole school worship

Thursday - Deputy headteacher + class teachers lead worship

Friday - Headteacher or Deputy headteacher leads worship

There is a list detailing weekly themes with ideas and related Bible reading.

During each term classes lead worship which families are invited too.

Different groups of children e.g Y6 house team organise a whole school worship in the summer term

The children in YR are introduced to worship (building up to attending all 5) in the autumn term.

**Format:**

The children come into the hall in silence (the children usually sit in rows but sometimes a different sitting arrangement is used e.g circle, by choice etc) Music is played in the background. The altar table is ready

Messages handed out first if there are any to give.

Worship begins with a greeting e.g. "God is here" and everyone replies "God is everywhere"

Input of the day and a song. Prayer said. (Children can either focus on the candle or close their eyes when praying)

Closing comment.

All members of staff and children are expected to attend worship

**When and where worship takes place:**

The 1998 Education Act allows schools, on special occasions, to hold their daily act of worship elsewhere than in school. The whole school takes part in collective worship every day, usually in the school hall. Worship can take place in classrooms, in the quiet area or at St Mary's Church.

The Headteacher, members of staff and the Priest-in-Charge lead the school in collective worship each day, according to a rota.

The local Church is used as the venue for the celebration of major Christian festivals e.g Christmas

Parents are invited to join us in celebrating specific acts of worship during the school year, i.e. Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the School Leaver's Service.

The school is invited to attend specific services, and sometimes to participate, at certain services at St Mary's Church. Chidham

**Prayer:**

Prayer is a natural part of school life and contributes to the whole Community. Children are helped to develop an understanding of prayer and by recognising that different people pray in different ways. In worship the children are encouraged to contribute to the prayers with requests in the prayer bowl or being one of three children to stand to say a prayer (thank you, sorry, please being the strands) related to the worship focus/theme

Prayer is not confined to the acts of worship. Grace is said before the children eat lunch and prayers are said at the end of every school day. There is also the opportunity for children to pray in class and in the quiet garden if they wish.

During their time in school, children become familiar with a number of the great prayers and appropriate local prayers, such as the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester. The traditional format of the Lord's Prayer is used. We also have a School Prayer.

### **The Anglican Tradition:**

The following areas are explored in worship during the child's time at school:

- using the Bible as a source of inspiration and learning;
- reflecting on Christian symbols and their use in worship;
- observing the cycle of the Church's year and the holy days;
- using the parish church and its priest as resources;
- making a collection of hymns and songs, thus creating a framework for worship in school;
- providing opportunities to discover the value of meditation and silence within worship;
- recognising our strong commitment to ecumenism (e.g. inviting members of other Christian denominations to lead worship);
- welcoming all pupils of whatever faith and celebrating shared values and beliefs.

### **The Eucharist at Chidham Parochial Primary School:**

The majority of our pupils, families and staff do not attend Church regularly. Bearing this in mind, and the very young age range of our pupils, we have agreed, as a staff, that it is inappropriate currently, to include celebrations of The Eucharist in our whole school worship. However, exploration of the important elements within The Eucharist is included.

### **Record keeping, evaluation and monitoring:**

At the end of morning worship the worship leader records the worship content (see file) Children make a comment in the reflections book. These are scrutinised by the worship co-ordinator.

Governors attend worship and monitor input and impact (in accordance especially with the School Improvement Plan - see monitoring file)

Worship is discussed between the headteacher and Father Martin regularly

Worship is discussed with the school (when timetabled) in house team PSHCE lessons

**Equal Opportunities:**

Our Collective worship affirms the equality of each individual in God's sight, whatever the child's gender, ethnicity or ability. We seek to use materials that are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian Mack". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.