

## **CHILMARK AND FONTHILL BISHOP CHURCH OF ENGLAND AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

Date Ratified by FGB: November 2004  
Reviewed: October 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018  
Next review due: September 2019

#### **Aims**

As a Church of England Aided School we regard Collective Worship as an important and valued time for staff and children to share together. The act of Collective Worship should encourage the children to see worship as relevant to everyday life and should help them to prepare for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences that they will encounter in later life. For the adults or children involved it may be an affirmation of their own faith or it may lay the foundation for further Christian experience.

An Act of Worship will always place God at the centre of the activity, seeking to give Him praise and glory, reflect on His goodness and mercy, thank Him for blessings received and offer Him prayer for the needs of all people. The life, death, resurrection and teaching of Jesus Christ – The Gospel – is central to the Christian understanding of God and to Christian Worship.

Collective worship should extend links with the Church and it should foster a feeling of community within the school as well as helping to establish a caring atmosphere. It should promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils as well as stimulating a feeling of awe and wonder, thus enabling them to come closer to God.

#### **Approach**

The Act of Collective Worship will be broadly of a Christian character or is based on the Christian calendar, and will reflect the traditions of Christian belief, but it will occasionally include material from other religious traditions. Pupils will have opportunities to learn about other faiths through the RE curriculum.

The approach to the Act of Collective Worship will vary, but it will often consist of a teacher-led stimuli, often with a visual focus, and provide a variety of activities in which the children can share responses and sometimes will participate in activities. In the Key Stage collective worship, a more active learning approach with more pupil participation will often be used. Sometimes the Act of Collective Worship will be implicit in content and sometimes it will be more explicit.

Appropriate music will be used to set the tone of the worship and there will be opportunities for thought and silence. The children will normally join together in singing and in saying the Lord's Prayer. We have our own order of service with a greeting, prayer and response. The candle and cross are used as focal points.

#### **Organisation**

On four days a week the Collective Worship will be a whole school event and, on one day it will be a Key Stage Collective Worship. Once a week it will be led by a Minister of the local church. The Act of

Collective Worship will normally take place in school and will be the first collective activity of the school day. Every Friday will be a celebration assembly where the school celebrate and congratulate the good work or behaviour which is happening in and outside of school. There is an open invitation for parents to attend this Act of Worship.

At least once each term, an Act of Collective Worship will be held in the Parish Church. This involves parents and friends of the school and will normally be led by a member of the local Team Ministry. Occasionally, visitors (e.g. local charity organisers), will be invited to talk to the children on specific subjects. The children will lead services in Church such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the Leavers Service.

### **Planning, Continuity and Recording**

Planning for the school's collective worship will be done termly in advance by the Subject Leader for RE. The Act of Collective Worship will be in accordance with the themes identified for that term. When planning acts of collective worship staff should make sure that the worship is: -

- Inclusive, appropriate and relevant to the children
- Conducive to building a relationship with God
- Inspiring, in that it creates feelings and senses from which worship can arise e.g. a sense of beauty, awe and wonder; awareness of thankfulness; feelings of pity, peace, sadness or joy
- Spiritual, by creating a special atmosphere and time for stillness and reflection
- Educational, offering a learning experience

When choosing materials for Collective Worship consider using something which: -

- Will interest pupils and hold their attention
- Connects with their everyday lives
- Triggers their imagination
- Prompts further thoughts
- Can be interpreted at different levels of understanding
- Offers the beginnings of spiritual dimension

The termly scheme of work for Collective Worship will be recorded and kept for reference.

### **Legal Status**

The Act of Collective Worship in Chilmark and Fonthill Bishop Primary School is the responsibility of the Governing Body in consultation with the Head Teacher. It will be carried out in accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act and with the Trust Deed of the school, in accordance with the principles and teachings of the Church of England; although in accordance with modern ecumenical good practice it may reflect and draw upon non-Anglican (Christian) traditions. The policy for Collective Worship has been drawn up by the Subject Leader for Religious Education, who is currently the Head Teacher, in consultation with the teaching staff and with the approval of the Governing Body.

### **Rights of Withdrawal**

We would hope that all parents would be supportive of our Christian ethos but they do have the right to ask that their children be withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, staff do not have this right in an aided school whatever their own religious stance.

**Provision for Monitoring and Review**

The school practice, which should enable the children to develop in accordance with the stated aims of the Policy, will be reviewed by the Head Teacher, staff and the Governors annually. The Collective Worship policy itself should be revised every two years.