



***Wimborne St Giles CE First School and Nursery***

***Collective Worship Policy***

**Introduction**

This policy is an agreed statement of the values and aims of collective worship at Wimborne St Giles CE First School and Nursery.

Collective worship is valued as a central aspect of the life of our church school, through which children grow spiritually, emotionally, morally and culturally.

**Legal status of collective worship**

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all children, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words, the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", is not relevant. Collective worship in our school is distinctly Christian and reflects Anglican traditions.

The governing body of this school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for collective worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of collective worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

In our school our Christian vision: 'Together We Grow: Together We Give' shapes all we do.

At Wimborne St Giles we want to create a school in which everybody THRIVES, which is firmly rooted in its Christian VALUES of Love, Hope and Joy and which branches out to serve its Local, National and Global COMMUNITY.

As a church school, our Vision is deeply Christian and underpinned by this verse from the Bible: "And the leaves on the tree are for the healing of the nations" Revelation 2: 22. We want every child to flourish and to fulfil their potential. We teach children that no two leaves are the same - and neither are they! Throughout their time with us, we instil the sense in them that they are unique, they are special and they are loved. The visual representation of our vision is a tree with the children as leaves reaching out. We want our children to flourish and be empowered to change the world. Throughout their time with us, children are given regular opportunities to serve their local, national and global community and 'be the change' they want to see in the world.

## ***'Together We Grow: Together We Give'***

### **Policy Statement**

In Wimborne St Giles CE First School and Nursery, collective worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring our school's vision and associated values. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

Collective worship in our Church school aims to enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

For many Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We recognise that our school is not a church, rather it is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds of families, visitors and staff may vary and therefore collective worship is planned to take account of the differing circumstances of those present.

We aim for collective worship to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and based upon Christian teaching and values. It aims to give opportunities for all present to grow spiritually, whatever their personal philosophy, or whether or not they come from a faith background.

Through collective worship, children will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. This will include being invited to participate in prayer, reading and reflection from the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Children will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in Christian values such as love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (and world faiths<sup>1</sup>) calendar. All present will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.<sup>2</sup>

### **Guiding Principles**

Collective worship has a pivotal place in the life of Wimborne St Giles CE First School and Nursery. It aims to:

- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience that will offer opportunities for those present to grow spiritually as well as to observe and respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians, or to find their own spiritual path. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of different faiths and none to be present and to engage with

---

<sup>1</sup> Collective Worship in a CofE school must be in alignment with the religious foundation of the school (Christian), however there is a responsibility for schools in all contexts to mark, respond and learn from the festivals of different faiths. This may be designated as a separate act, not to be conflated with collective worship.

<sup>2</sup> "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)

### ***'Together We Grow: Together We Give'***

integrity. It aims to give children and young people the opportunity to develop their own philosophy and moral compass.

- Support those present in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief.
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help all present to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer and reflection. It helps children and young people to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Christian Church's year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Facilitate a deeper understanding of the Christian story narrative, from creation to the present day
- To appreciate that people, cultures and beliefs differ and to demonstrate respect, tolerance and generosity towards them
- To develop young children's sense of self-worth and to provide opportunities to celebrate achievements.
- To develop a caring attitude to others and a sense of community and loyalty.
- To provide opportunities for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate collective worship.
- To invite clergy of the parish, other lay members of the parish and other Christian leaders in the community [as are acceptable to the parish church] to lead collective worship and build the parish-school link.
- Give opportunities to explore a variety of ways of praying, giving those present the chance to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all present to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Children will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading collective worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure children understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

## **The right of withdrawal**

We recognise that in our school there are children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious worldview. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that we aim to be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community we serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of our Church school, this is made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship. By withdrawing from collective worship, it does not mean that children will be exempt from the Christian ethos of our setting, as this underpins our teaching, learning and relationships.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship. If a parent wishes to make a request for their child to be withdrawn from collective worship, we ask that they meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. See Appendix One

## **Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation**

This policy has been developed in a collaborative process with our diocesan advisers, local clergy, foundation governors, staff, children and their families. We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Children' personal development and wellbeing
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education (SMSC) and Relationships, Social and Health Education (RSHE)
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included on the school website.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The roles and responsibilities of each member of the school community to uphold the principles and actions of this policy are:

- **The governing body**—have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for collective worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of collective worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher and helping to shape and review this policy.
- **The headteacher and the senior leadership team** – In partnership with the governing body and our church partners, the HT and SLT develop and plan the long and short term collective worship overview and lead collective worship across the school. They work alongside the governors, children and their families to monitor and evaluate the impact of collective worship and to ensure provide opportunities for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate collective worship.
- **Clergy and church partners** – regularly lead collective worship within school and help to build the parish-school link, helping all present to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer and reflection They are also involved in the shaping and developing of the policy and planning of Collective Worship. They monitor and evaluate the impact through dialogue with staff and children.
- **Teaching and support staff** – develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship across the school. They ensure that experiences are provided that will offer opportunities for those present to grow spiritually. Teachers and support staff facilitate regular opportunities for children to reflect upon our worship themes.
- **Children** – take on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading collective worship throughout their time at the school. They are central to the school's monitoring and evaluation; providing feedback and capturing impact through contributions to reflection journals, prayer books, surveys and governor visits.
- **Parents and carers** – are a key part of our Wimborne St Giles school family. They attend weekly Celebration Worship and services throughout the year to celebrate key Christian festivals. They support and uphold the school's Christian Vision and Values and the development of children's spirituality.
- **Visitors** – all visitors to the school are provided with the opportunity to share in our worship times. Our church partners are invited to lead worship sessions in accordance with this policy and its guiding principles.

## **Staff development and training**

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

## ***'Together We Grow: Together We Give'***

Staff receive a regular programme of in-house continual professional development (CPL) and the Collective Worship lead attends all of the network meetings and training provided by the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

We regularly monitor and evaluate the impact of worship in a variety of ways:

- Through foundation governors
- Through pupil and teacher feedback and assessment
- Through worship times
- Through the use of reflection journals
- Through the school council and worship team
- Through parent surveys
- Through an annual review of our policy
- Through SIAMS inspections and continued professional development

Monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship includes children, staff, foundation governors and visiting clergy. We capture this impact to enable us to strengthen and develop worship within the school.

Examples of this are:

- feedback from pupils indicated that they valued time outdoors to help them reflect on collective worship themes. We introduced 'Muddy Church' last year to give pupils a weekly opportunity to hold worship in our forest area. This has really helped to develop the children's spirituality as they reflect on the beauty of God's world and what we can do to help preserve it.
- From talking to the children after worship sessions, it was clear that we needed to involve them more fully in the planning of worship process. We now use a resource called 'Flippin' Praise' which uses a four-fold structure of Gathering, Engaging, Responding and Sending to plan school Collective Worship. Choosing items for the four different sections helps children begin to see a shape to worship in a fun and engaging way.

### **Disseminating the policy**

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all children. This policy is available on our school website.

### **Review of this policy**

There will be a review every three years of this policy. Its effectiveness will be monitored by the collective worship leader, together with a senior leaders and governors. This will include discussions with children and other members of staff, observation of teaching and monitoring of children's work.

***'Together We Grow: Together We Give'***

Evaluation of teaching plans will form part of any review. The outcomes will influence the school development plan.

**Other Useful Documents:**

- Collective Worship in Church of England Schools, Inclusive Invitational Inspiring Guidance Document (The Church of England Education Office)
- Valuing All God's Children
- Wimborne St Giles' Spirituality Policy

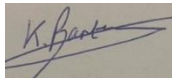
**Date of last review:** October 4th, 2022

Headteacher signed:



Date: 4th October 2022

Chair of Governors signed:



Date: 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022

## **Appendix One – In the event that a parent wishes that their child is withdrawn from collective worship**

We ask that parents make an appointment to meet with the Headteacher. During this meeting, it may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of collective worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such collective worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and headteacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)



## **Appendix Two: How collective worship is organised**

### **Leadership**

- Worship is either led by the headteacher, a member of staff, a pupil or small group of children, a whole class, a member of the clergy or local church or individual visitors and teams e.g. Open the Book
- Support and guidance is given to visitors leading worship. We provide the overview of the collective worship planning and half termly themes, our vision and values statements and information,

### **Planning**

- Worship is planned by the Collective Worship lead, in conjunction with the worship team, our church partners and foundation governors. We use a variety of resources to help us plan, including Roots and Fruits, Flippin' Praise and a Fresh Approach to Collective Worship. We use regular feedback from collective worship to inform our planning.
- We provide regular training and support so that all members of the school community are equipped to plan and lead acts of worship. The Collective Worship lead meets with worship team to support and scaffold the planning and leading process.
- Collective worship reflects the cycle of the Church year (See Appendix Three). This helps children and young people to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Christian Church's year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- In every act of Collective Worship, explicit links are made to our values of Love, Hope and Joy. These are expressed using our 'values language' and celebrated through stories, song, prayer, reflection and stillness.
- Explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school – this might be through linking to our half termly themes or
- We use a pattern for worship (Gathering, Engaging, Responding, Sending) and ritual and liturgical responses which reflect Anglican tradition.
- We use a wide range of materials and resource, including: websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips and focal points e.g. a picture or candle
- Regular opportunities are provided for children and adults to explore faith in today's world – for example through collective worship themes, the exploration of the life of a person whose faith has changed the world and through the transformational nature of worship which provided for spiritual growth.

## ***'Together We Grow: Together We Give'***

- We explore the trinitarian nature of God through Bible stories, pictures and symbols, prayers, poems and music. The use of symbols also supports this, such as the lighting of three wicks on a candle at the beginning of worship.
- We nurture the spiritual growth of all in the school through music, prayer, stillness and reflection – we link this to our school's definition of spirituality and spiritual 'capacities' which provide opportunities for growth (see our Spirituality Policy). Collective Worship is the beating heart of Wimborne St Giles CE First School and Nursery. It provides the opportunity for our school community to share experiences, ideas and understanding. It is the context in which the language of spirituality, which we use as a school, is regularly and explicitly shared.

### **Organisation**

Our organisation for worship is as follows:

**Monday:** Whole School Worship (led by Worship team)

**Tuesday:** Whole School Worship (Led by a member of the clergy)

**Wednesday:** Whole School Muddy Church (led by Mrs Hill, the collective worship lead)

**Thursday:** Class worship

**Friday:** Whole School and Families Celebration Worship (led by members of the worship team and Mrs Hill)

There are different settings and places for worship around the school (Hall, Classroom, Forest, Prayer Space, Spiritual Garden, St Giles Church). We make the worship space special and create the atmosphere for worship using:

- o The liturgical colours of the seasons of the Church Year on our altar cloths and display area.
  - o Christian signs and symbols, candles, music, as a focal point,
  - o Ritual and liturgical responses at the beginning and end of our worship times
  - o Our outdoor areas: the spiritual garden, the local church, WSG Wild Woods
  - o The structure of collective worship: Gathering, Engaging, Responding, Sending
- Worship is usually held at the beginning of the school day for approximately 20-30 minutes

### Appendix Three: Liturgical Colours and seasons of the Christian year



|                      |   |               |
|----------------------|---|---------------|
| Ordinary Time        | 16 June 2019 – 23 Nov 2019  | Green         |
| Christ the King      | 24 Nov 2019 – 30 Nov 2019   | White         |
| Advent               | 1 Dec 2019 – 24 Dec 2019  | Purple        |
| Christmas & Epiphany | 25 Dec 2019 – 2 Feb 2020  | White or Gold |
| After Epiphany       | 3 Feb 2020 – 25 Feb 2020  | Green         |
| Lent                 | 26 Feb 2020 – 10 April 2020   | Purple        |
| Eastertide           | 11 April 2020 – 30 May 2020   | White or Gold |
| Pentecost            | 31 May 2020   | Red           |
| Ordinary time        | 7 June 2020 – 21 Nov 2020   | Green         |
| Christ the King      | 22 Nov 2020 – 28 Nov 2020   | White         |
| Saints Days          | St David – March 1, St Patrick – March 17, St George - April 23, St Andrew - Nov 30 | Red           |