



# Collective Worship Policy

**Reviewed: Autumn 2013, May 16**  
**The next revision date is AUTUMN 2017**  
**Reviewed: Nov 2017**  
**Next review: Autumn 2019**

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### **Foundation of the School:**

St. Catherine's C.E. School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England School. The Trust Deed of the school set the school up to provide education within the framework for the Established Church. The majority of the school population is Christian although not many attend St. Catherine's Church.

### **Place of Worship:**

Worship is the focal point of each day; through it we can celebrate and explore the values that are important to the school. We aim to provide a stimulating and challenging education enabling our children to develop into competent, caring individuals. Christian values are built into the schools ethos and teachings. It is through sharing worship with St. Catherine's Parish and fortnightly services and visits by the clergy, that the school and the parish form a closer bond.

### **Aims for Worship:**

- ◆ To develop pupils' spiritual development by enabling the children to experience what worship is and what people do when they worship.
- ◆ Develop the ability to meditate and use silence creatively
- ◆ To give the children the opportunity to reflect and think more deeply about important issues.
- ◆ To foster a sense of awe and wonder by celebrating all that is of value in life - truth, love, goodness and beauty.
- ◆ To introduce pupils to the worship of the Church of England by learning appropriate responses and forms of prayers.
- ◆ Explore mystery and the important questions about life and creation, including the dark side of life, e.g. suffering, loss, death and evil
- ◆ To give children a repertoire of prayers to take into adult life and to give them the experience of different forms of Christian worship and worship material.
- ◆ To help pupils to gain in knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith by exploring Christian beliefs about God and learn about the place and significance of the Bible
- ◆ Learn about the significance of Jesus by enabling them to explore the nature of God as revealed in Jesus. To enable the children to share in Church life and Christian practice by celebrating the festivals and saints days of the church year.

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- ◆ To help pupils explore and share the beliefs of others by listening to stories from other faiths and learn about their significance. To enable children to observe special celebrations from other faiths by discovering how believers from other faiths worship. Encouraging children to celebrate values and attitudes shared with members of other faith communities.
- ◆ To contribute to pupils moral development by helping them to develop the ability to reflect on moral and social issues. To help children to appreciate the values and beliefs that people live by, by acknowledging and becoming more aware of the needs of others.
- ◆ To contribute to the general development of pupils by providing them with opportunities for leadership and developing performance skills. To learn the skill of choral speaking and the pupils singing ability by giving them the opportunity for group preparation and presentation.
- ◆ To celebrate and take note of the life of the school in the presence of God by celebrating work undertaken by pupils in all areas. To build up a sense of community. To develop and reflect on the values of the school by sharing the achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community.
- ◆ To look out to the wider world by giving thanks and celebrating God's word. To take note of the events of the world and express joy or sorrow as appropriate.

### **Expectation of Pupils:**

The aims of the Worship Policy mirror that of our policy for Religious Education.

- To aid pupils on their spiritual journey by encouraging them to develop an awareness and respect for God.
- To enable the children to understand the basic beliefs and practices in Christianity in recognition of the character of the school and its importance in the life of the community which supports the school in which it serves.
- To be able to live at peace in a mixed society and to begin to see what other major faiths, represented in Britain today, believe and practice.
- To promote attitudes of trust, respect and responsibility and to develop each others self esteem and an awareness of the needs and desires of others and the wonder and complexity of the universe.



### **Organisation and Delivery:**

All Collective Worship is based around Christian values and our Heart Smart programme which are laid out by the Head teacher.

All members of staff and visitors leading Collective Worship follow the theme for the week. Please see attached example.

Collective Worship at St. Catherine's are arranged as follows:-

Monday	Class worship
Tuesday	Headteacher whole school worship
Wednesday	Assistant Headteacher whole school worship
Thursday	Worship through Singing/ Reverend Behrend, Andrew Gallimore and other visitors may lead Collective Worship
Friday	Celebration Collective Worship

Worship takes place primarily in the hall.

The appropriate atmosphere created with a candle for quiet reflection, music and a cross and other Christian symbols. The children sit on the floor with members of staff contributing to the worship. Hymns are a mixed of traditional and modern. Prayers include the school prayer, the Lord's Prayer, 'Footsteps' and other prayers that link into the theme for the Collective Worship.

Stories are drawn from a range of sources such as from Christianity; from other faith traditions; 'true life'; initiated by the children themselves; film clips.

Hymns are sung in many collective worship sessions.

**THE PROVISION FOR WORSHIP IS IN LINE WITH THE DIOCESAN POLICY.**

***NB:*** All parents have the right to withdraw their child from Religious Education and Worship