



# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

## Rationale

The Trust Deed and school ethos statement inform the policy and practice of collective worship in Drayton Church of England Junior School. School worship is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian foundation values and ethos of the school.

Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school. It is an inclusive act which encourages reflection in all present, of all faiths and none, rooted in the Christian understanding of God as trinity. This will include belief in God the source of all being and life, belief in Jesus who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection and belief in the Holy Spirit who makes the presence of Jesus known in the world.

## Aims

Through collective worship in our school we aim to:

- provide an experience of worship that will allow participants to respond to the presence, power and peace of God
- introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year
- explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to some well known Christian prayers, e.g. Lord's Prayer
- strengthen and support the school community giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school
- celebrate the gifts that each child brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God
- encourage children to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around them
- foster a concern for others within the school and wider world
- foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.
- to provide our pupils with regular opportunities for reflection and prayer

## Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils which takes account of their age and aptitude. (Education Reform Act 1988). Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. Since this is a church school however, Christian worship is central to its life and work and is regarded as a very important part of children's education.

## Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school and this forms the essential part of each assembly. The whole school, including members of staff, meet together in the hall each morning. Collective Worship usually lasts for fifteen minutes. We conduct collective worship

in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that this is a special time which includes periods of reflection. Collective worship can be lively and interactive though we expect children to behave in an appropriate way; we will ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. The Lord's Prayer is said regularly. There is a table with a cross and a candle as a focal point for worship.

*The headteacher or deputy headteacher normally lead collective worship. Once a week there is a 'singing assembly' and the week is ended with a 'Celebration Assembly' on a Friday.*

The incumbent leads collective worship once every half term. Other visitors may also be invited to contribute to acts of worship.

The school holds a service in St. Margaret's Church for Christmas, Easter and School Leavers each year.

Celebration, praise and hope are essential features of our worship at Drayton Church of England Junior School. This gives children the opportunity to grow and develop spiritually, to make children aware of what it means to be a part of a community committed to serving and caring for each other, God and our environment. In so doing we hope to create an atmosphere in which pupils are invited rather than compelled to explore issues for themselves, reflect upon and learn from their own and others' experiences, develop sensitivity and a sense of wonder, awe and mystery for the world of which they are part.

### **Content and Approach**

We have developed a range of themes and topics through which Collective Worship takes place. Themes for each month are chosen and presented in a variety of ways. The current list is included in the Collective Worship folder. The school explores themes through stories, hymns, prayers and responses;

- Celebration of the major festivals of Christianity
- Presentation of Bible stories
- Topical matters from the news or the locality
- 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 – formal, pupils' own, silent
- Use of music
- Appropriate focal points and artefacts
- Drama and participation by the children

### **Resources**

The school budget includes a sum to be used annually for resourcing collective worship.

### **Equal Opportunities**

In sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives, along with our common concerns, responsibilities and values, we affirm the equality of each individual, regardless of gender, creed, ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

### **Special Educational Needs**

The staff and governors at Drayton Church of England Junior School are committed to ensuring that every child in the school is able to engage with collective worship, whatever her or his ability. Every attempt is made, therefore, to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

Evaluation strategies for assessing collective worship are:

- observation of the children's interest level and attentiveness;
- a focused visit by Foundation Governors.
- conducting occasional observations of collective worship and providing feedback
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- holding regular discussions with colleagues

### **Conclusion**

At Drayton Church of England Junior School we offer pupils opportunities to explore and share beliefs and consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence. We encourage them to consider the relevance of ideas, beliefs and values to their own lives, to think about the needs of others and what it means to be part of a community. The opportunity is given to put into practice the values of the school.