

# Policy for Collective Worship



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| <b>Approved by:</b>        | Faith and Ethos Committee | <b>Date:</b> October 2022 |
| <b>Last reviewed on:</b>   | Autumn 2022               |                           |
| <b>Next review due by:</b> | Autumn 2024               |                           |

At Smallwood Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary Academy, collective worship is in conformity with the ethos statement and the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England.

**‘Smallwood School instils the love of learning into all who enters its doors; with God, Church and faith at the centre of its values.’**

Collective Worship contributes to the working of our **School Philosophy** through our **Mission Statement** and the **aims** and **ethos** of the school, and therefore to the Christian Education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school.

Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life and the Board of Directors see it as an essential part of all pupils’ education. As such, we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and meditation exercises in the curriculum generally and usually at the end of the school day as well as graces before lunch.

Whatever the approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These would include:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity’s relationship with God;
- The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- The importance of prayer;
- The central symbols of Christianity;
- The cycle of the Church year.
- Termly Eucharist

The close links with St John’s Church is celebrated and the Vicar leads Worship on a weekly basis. We have also fostered links with other local churches who also contribute to our worships e.g. Brookhouse Green Methodist Chapel and New Life Church has an outreach worker who leads our worship once every two weeks. During significant religious festivals this is extended to include class worships delivered across the school.

**Collective Worship and Assembly.**

The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such

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'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply.

Worship in the school, while reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development of pupils.

The provision of collective worship conforms to Diocesan/District policy, we follow the Chester Dioceses Calendar, this including religious dates of the Christian and other World Religions calendar (as compiled by the Dioceses).

Worship and Religious Education are interconnected at Smallwood CE Primary Academy.

### **Our Aims for worship are:-**

Collective Worship will enable the whole school community to:-

**Explore** those questions which are important to everyone

**Encounter** a faith which is alive

**Experience** the joy of celebrating God's love

**Family Service** also presents the opportunity to take the Eucharist.

Worship for the whole school is held on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. The Vicar leads on a Wednesday, Tuesday is Hymn Practice (focused during times of significant religious festivals) led by staff and Mrs Darlington with a time for prayers and quiet reflection at the end. These days are delivered by teaching staff on a rolling programme. On Thursdays we work collectively on RE across the school and time is spent in class collective learning about our faith and other faiths from around the world.

Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt. Frequently pupils are involved in leading worship or performing through drama or music.

Parents, family and Directors are always welcome to join us and are especially invited to our Celebratory Assemblies which small groups or classes lead at least once a school year. We ensure that the atmosphere is conducive to worship by ensuring that suitable music is playing as the children enter the hall, the manner in which the children enter, i.e. older pupils escort their buddies, how and where everyone sits.

A candle is lit when everyone is present to ensure that all have a focus.

We ensure that our Worship time is inclusive of other faiths and beliefs and ask those, who would like us to us in prayer and to make it their own prayer, to say "Amen" at the end.

Once worship has ended, notices by a different person may be announced to the children.

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Worship is organised on a termly basis and a timetable is put in place with the focus for each week carefully chosen. Staff are requested to reflect on their delivered worship on the timetable, ensuring continuous motivation to improve worship. This is further developed at “Family Service”.

### **The legal requirements for Collective Worship in our school**

**(a) Legal Basis**

Collective Worship in Church Schools is governed by the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

**(b) Daily Worship**

Daily Collective Worship has to be provided for every pupil. This worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, separate Key Stage groups, year groups or house groups or in classes but not in faith groups. Worship may take place at any time in the school day.

### **Worship in Church**

Worship normally takes place on the school premises, but may take place in Church on special occasions and when the weather permits.

### **Parental rights of withdrawal**

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship and this provision and its limitations are indicated in the school prospectus.

### **Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship**

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Head Teacher, in consultation with the Directors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese or District. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures come into play and the matter will be **adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee** of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.