



## Collective Worship Policy

### Vision Statement

Everyone is encouraged to grow in body, mind and spirit as part of our caring Christian community and we celebrate the uniqueness of each individual. We promote equality and diversity through our shared Christian values of compassion, forgiveness and trust and inspire a life-long love of learning.

“Be kind and loving to each other. Forgive each other the same as God forgave you in Christ.”

Ephesians 4:32

Signed by the Chair of Governors:
Dated: March 2020
The name of our Collective Worship Governor is: Emma Douglas
This policy is to be next reviewed in: March 2021

## **Our vision for Collective Worship**

Collective worship is central to the life of Blackford CE School. It is part of the outworking of the school's Christian vision and is a time for the whole school community to gather, pause and reflect their own spirituality, values and place in the world and drawing on the opportunities described by the DfE (circular 1/94).

*'...there is a strong educational case for experience of worship being part of school life, since its omission lessens the possibility of understanding traditions to which worship is essential;'*

*Church of England Vision for Education 2016*

Collective worship is not the same as an assembly, though can take place in the same gathering. A school may hold any number of assemblies each week but must have a daily act of collective worship. Collective worship can be held in class or tutor groups for a shorter period of time.

## **Aims**

### **Inclusive, Invitational, Inspirational**

The aims of collective worship **in this school** are that it:

- will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect as well as developing community and understanding of living well together;
- aims to be inclusive, invitational and inspirational;
- is central to the life of the school;
- supports pupils and adults in their spiritual growth;
- supports pupils in their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief;
- introduces pupils to a variety of forms of Christian worship that reflect the rich diversity of experience in Anglican (and other Christian traditions) locally and globally;
- enables pupils to use the use of silence or stilling, reflection and prayer;
- provides opportunities to explore the 'Big Questions' of life and to recognise the responses that have been made to these by people of faith;
- affirms the uniqueness and contribution of every individual in the sight of God.

## **Legal Framework**

Since 1944 collective worship has been a legal requirement in maintained schools. The law requires that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. In a church school these acts must be distinctively Christian in nature. By inviting the school community to worship, we need to consider the varied backgrounds that the school community come from and therefore collective worship is invitational rather than confessional in nature.

At this school collective worship is conducted in accordance with the Trust Deed and Instrument of Government and is consistent with the beliefs of the Church of England.

## **Planning, Recording and Evaluation**

The content and planning of collective worship should be varied. The themes for each week/half term/term are shared with staff and visiting clergy at the beginning of each term and include ideas for stories from the Bible that support this. However, the pattern is flexible and on occasions, will focus on a response to local or national events.

The school visits the local church for worship, particularly at major festivals in the Christian calendar Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Easter.

We also use outdoor areas when weather conditions permit e.g. spiritual garden or reflective space

Evaluation of worship takes place after each worship by both staff and children and this in turn is evaluated in our weekly staff meetings.

## **Resources**

The school uses a variety of resources when planning collective worship. Amongst others, we utilise materials recommended by Carlisle Diocese, Diocese of Ely, Values for Life, Diocese of Blackburn and other story/parable-based explorations.

## **Responsibilities**

**Headteacher (CW lead)** – has the delegated responsibility for day to day acts of collective worship:

Identifying and planning themes

Support where required for those leading worship

Identifying training needs

Monitoring and evaluation of collective worship

**Foundation Governors** – monitor and evaluate the impact of collective worship in our school through governor observations and ensure collective worship is consistent with the trust deed. The governor with collective worship responsibility will report annually to the full governing board and propose any necessary amendments to the School Development Plan, including any need for staff development or training. *See Appendix 4.*

**Leaders of collective worship** – plan and deliver acts of worship. This also includes the year 5 and 6 children who lead worship every 2 weeks (leaders' parents invited)

## **Visitors**

We encourage guest leaders of collective worship throughout the year. Some of these may be linked to a specific project or organisation. Please see additional diocesan guidance for religious or faith visitors taking part in collective worship.

<https://www.carlislediocese.org.uk/documents/guidance-staff-when-faith-representatives-visit-ce-school/>

<https://www.carlislediocese.org.uk/documents/guidance-faith-representatives-visiting-schools/>

## **Review**

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 other members of staff, observation of teaching and monitoring of children's work. Evaluation of teaching plans will form part of any review. The outcomes will influence the school development plan.

*This guidance takes into account current requirements for collective worship in the new SIAMS schedule from September 2018*