

# **Collective Worship Policy School**

## **St Nicholas CE Primary School, Child Okeford**

***Love one another, as I have loved you (John 13v34)***

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### **Government guidance (circular 1/94)**

‘Collective worship should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs’ (para 50).

‘An act of worship which reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief need not contain only Christian material. It must, however, contain some elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christian belief and which accord a special status to Jesus Christ’ (para 63).

All parents may withdraw their children from worship providing they have notified the headteacher of their desire to do so. This right should be included in the worship policy and school brochure.

### **Intent**

The School Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school’s aims and ethos and will demonstrate the partnership between the conduct and content of school worship and the ethos of the whole school based on Christian values.

At St Nicholas, we consider Collective Worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the school’s distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well being of all learners.

Therefore, Collective Worship at St Nicholas is planned:

- to be inspirational and inclusive.
- it should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school

- will regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the school's core Christian values
- will have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- will help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- will challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection and Stillness
- will contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to"
- will be an opportunity to Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.

Collective worship should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the nonreligious or those of different faiths.

## **Implementation**

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at St Nicholas include opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate;
- sharing and experiencing differences;
- developing a culture of learning;
- building a sense of group identity;
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);
- learning how to behave in a large social group;
- exploring feelings and emotions;
- learning how to perform in front of an audience;
- learning how to respond to a performance;
- making visible the school's leadership;
- developing inner awareness;
- learning about current news and events across the world

## **Legal Requirements**

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and foundation.

The School meets this requirement and is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

## **Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated on the school website.

It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents, contact needs to be made with the Headteacher

## **Planning a Collective Worship Programme**

Specific time is set aside for this activity, and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by turning our hall into a 'church', asking the children to enter hall quietly and with respect and by lighting our candles.

The Whole School visits our local Church – The Church of St Nicholas at least once a term for Collective Worship. We celebrate Christmas, Harvest Festival and the end of our school year with our leavers in the Church.

Worship is planned with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. There should also be space for reflection and evaluation.

The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through dialogue with the children, discussions with Governors and staff.

Children's responses and views are recorded in our class Collective Worship books.

The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by Jill Watson (Head teacher). The acts of worship generally follow themes that are aligned to the school's values) but include a recognition of the church's year and make space for other national events.

## Our pattern of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is at 2:45 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. All our teaching staff lead Collective Worship on a regular basis. There is some flexibility as to days and times to accommodate visitors.

Monday	Whole school. Introduction to theme with Bible link.	Staff member
Tuesday	Class worship, following up on Monday's worship	Class teacher
Wednesday	Whole school. Incumbent of St Nicholas church or other visitor.	Rev Andrew Gubbins, Steve Sexton or staff member
Thursday	Whole school Singing Worship	Jill Watson
Friday	Whole school Celebration Worship	Jill Watson

### Regular visitors include:

Our incumbent at St Nicholas church Rev Andrew Gubbins and Steve Sexton.

## Celebration of Achievements and Awards

Every week the school gathers for this worship, in which achievements of pupils are celebrated. A child from each class is chosen usually by their teacher for excellent work in writing and mathematics and for exemplifying the school values of Friendship, Respect, Curiosity and Community. Achievements out of school are also celebrated and children are encouraged to perhaps bring in a certificate or rosette to school to share.

## Singing Worship

This act of Collective Worship includes songs and hymns, often linked to our values. We sing a mixture of traditional, modern and new songs and hymns. Prayer also plays an important part.

## Class Collective Worship

This act of worship follows the theme introduced in Monday's worship, allowing children time to think and discuss the issues at an age-appropriate level and to record their thinking in the class worship book. Recording is done

through adult scribing, children writing, artwork or photographs of displays or drama.

## **Visitors**

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

## **Impact**

The impact of Collective Worship can be measured by the opportunities provided for children and adults to share experiences, beliefs, values and concerns which are important to them and the occasion to reflect on those things which inspire us with awe, wonder, gratitude or a sense of being a part of something much greater than ourselves.

Pupils are asked, “How has what we have seen / discussed changed the way you think about issues and your actions?”

Pupils will also be asked the impact of worship has had on them answering the ‘Big Question’.

This is done through pupil voice questionnaires and discussions, parental questionnaires and monitoring of class worship books.