

# Collective Worship



All of our policies are underpinned by our Vision and driven by our Values of Friendship, Family and Fulfilment

## Introduction

Pitton CE Primary School is a Church of England School. Collective worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to worship and reflect. It is attended by all pupils, all available staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

Our collective worship enables us to think deeply about ourselves, our relationships with others, the world in which we live, God's word and his love for us. We share a variety of experiences to help us in our spiritual journeys, including words, music, silence, reflection and prayer.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school and its ethos statement. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in church: Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the Leavers' Service. Parents and children are also invited to take part in Sunday services within the parish, such as festivals and Education Sunday.

## Aims of Collective Worship

Our aim at Pitton CE Primary School is that acts of collective worship should: -

- place us in the presence of God, in order to worship him
- promote feelings of awe and wonder, love and compassion
- offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church
- underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school, reflecting its Trust Deed
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community
- be an opportunity for pupils to reflect on human existence
- help children explore and develop their own spirituality
- enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- offer opportunities to share worship with parents, governors and members of the local community
- celebrate special occasions in the church's year and the life of the community
- show appreciation for the God-given gifts and talents of the school community
- stimulate a sense of our place in the wider world
- be clearly planned and appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils
- be inclusive and an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected
- be regularly monitored and evaluated.

## The Planning of Collective Worship

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of collective worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Each term, there is a theme for collective worship based on Values for Life. These are prepared by the Collective Worship Coordinator, in consultation with the Headteacher and Vicar of the parish. The school has a display with prompts for reflection, which relates to the Values for Life and changes each term. In addition, the seasons and holy days of the church's year are observed and are displayed in the school.

Those leading acts of collective worship relate them to the Values for Life themes, which are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Class teachers may also develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week. This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

Resources for worship are kept by the worship co-ordinator in storage boxes and on a bookshelf in the hall.

### **The Programme and Practice of Collective Worship**

The weekly programme for collective worship is as follows:

**Monday:** Worship in the Hall linking to the terms Value for Life and led by a Class Teacher

**Tuesday:** Worship in the Hall, led by Open the book or local Vicar

**Wednesday:** Worship in the Hall linking to the terms Value for Life and led by a Class Teacher

**Thursday:** Singing Worship

**Friday:** Golden Celebration: upholding our Christian values and praising God through our lives and achievements

A team of collective worship monitors prepare the school hall for the act of collective worship. There is a focus table at the front of the hall, on which is placed a candle and a Bible. Music is chosen and any visual presentations and prompts are prepared before the children enter the hall, to create an atmosphere of calm and reverence.

Children are encouraged to participate in the worship by planning, singing, assisting in stories and drama, reading from the Bible, writing and reading their own prayers, sharing responses and taking part in periods of meditation and stillness.

All those who lead collective worship are asked to plan their act of worship in as much detail as they would any other learning activity.

Weekly members of the local community present an 'Open the Book' worship, in which stories from the Bible are dramatised in different ways. Children take part fully in these dramatisations.

Children have the opportunity to reflect on collective worship in shared class reflection books.

## **The Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship**

Alongside the Collective Worship Coordinator, the Foundation Governors' have a role supporting and monitoring collective worship at the school.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the planning and evaluation process. We have a Collective Worship Team, drawn from each year group across the school, who share suggestions and feedback with the RE lead and Headteacher. The collective worship monitors are also asked to give feedback, as part of their role.

### **Rights of Withdrawal**

At Pitton CE Primary School, we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher/worship coordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from acts of collective worship.

<b>COLLECTIVE WORSHIP</b>	
<b>Reviewed:</b>	2 years
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	LGC
<b>Ratified:</b>	
<b>Next Review:</b>	
<b>Filed:</b>	PITTON POLICIES/non statutory/curriculum