

# Collective Worship Policy



*'Live, Laugh, Learn'*

## St Cleopas Church of England Primary School

### **Mission Statement:**

We are a distinctive, inclusive, Christian school, where everyone is welcomed and valued. We aim to nurture and develop opportunities for lifelong learning through a caring and inclusive ethos. We come together in a friendly, creative community to develop our cultural lives, spirituality and abilities through the core values of Love, Trust, Care, Respect and Joy all given and received in Jesus' name.

### **Biblical reference:**

**"..love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples".**

**John 13:34-35**

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## Collective Worship Policy

### Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life of our school. Worship offers the children and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian ethos. It shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

By law, Collective Worship must be provided for every child every day. Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature.

Our collective worship provides the pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- Worship God;
- Celebrate Christian festivals, our school values and our achievements;
- Grow in understanding of and participation in prayer;
- Develop a reflective approach to life and reflect on Christian values
- Develop as a community based on Christian values;
- Participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship;
- Feel safe and affirmed.

At times worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- Nurture spiritual growth;
- Consider moral issues in a Christian context
- Enhance social understanding;
- Explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage.

### The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective worship is a special time for pupils to reflect upon their life experiences and to seek out answers to ultimate questions as far as their intellectual and spiritual capacities will allow them.

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings in the school hall, classrooms and in St Cleopas Church. Collective Worship is planned with an overall theme given for each half term, with specific details for each week. Guidance is provided with reference to relevant resources. Festivals, Holy Days and significant Saint's days are incorporated into the overall plan. There is also room for flexibility, with opportunities to respond to school, local and national events.

Monday

Class/Hall

Class Bible reading and reflection

/ Chaplain Andrew (ESLA) – half termly visit

Tuesday	Class	Class Worship – teacher led
Wednesday	Hall/ Church Hall	Reverend Gavin / Mike – Ministry team (St Cleopas Church)
Thursday	Class	Child led worship
Friday	Hall	Celebration assembly (Headteacher/Deputy)

## **Leading worship**

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church Community. Where appropriate, leaders from the wider community are invited to lead worship within the guidance of St Cleopas School's collective worship policy.

## Learning expectations and intended outcomes

Education, celebration, praise and hope are essential features of our worship here at St Cleopas School.

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Children are invited to reflect upon and learn from their own experiences and the experiences of others, develop sensitivity and a sense of wonder, awe and mystery for the world of which they are part.

The content and activities included in Worship are planned according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme, and the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils. These might include:

- . Lighting a candle
- . Saying a prayer
- . Listening to a story
- . Reflection

Close links are made throughout the year with St Cleopas School values. Throughout their time at our school, children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as dance and drama alongside traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and God, reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray, are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship and on their own religious or non-religious beliefs.

## **Legal Requirements**

The legal requirement for Church schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship. Parents are entitled to withdraw their child from this daily act of worship; however, we encourage them to participate to form respect and understanding of all beliefs.

“The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.”

*The School Standards and Framework Act 1998*

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection, completed by pupils, staff, clergy and governors. Evaluations are fed into the planning of future worship.

**Policy Date:** February 2018

**Review Date:** February 2020