

# **Cowbit St Mary's Church of England School**

## **Collective Worship Policy**

**We focus on RESPECT, TRUST, PERSEVERENCE, COMPASSION, RESPONSIBILITY and FORGIVENESS as Our Core Christian Values.**

Our Vision: We are a small, inclusive Church of England Primary School that welcomes everyone and encourages all voices to be heard. Through challenge and support, we strive towards each person becoming the best person God intended them to be, happily flourishing as human beings. We empower our whole school community to be hopeful about the future and to be drivers of positive change.

Collective Worship is a vital part of our school day as it offers us an opportunity to meet together to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian vision. We welcome all members of our school community to join our worship- offering thanksgiving and praise to God. We believe that we can all learn from each other and that collective worship is an educational entitlement for all. In worship we create the opportunity to explore the place of faith in each of our lives, and in the communities in which we live.

Our collective worship provides pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- Celebrate -
  - Christian seasons and festivals
  - school values associated with our vision
  - Pupils' and adults' achievements
- experience prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer
- create a reflective approach to life including the exploration of deep questions
- develop as a community centred on our clear and distinctive Christian vision
- experience a variety of styles of worship
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship
- feel safe and encouraged
- worship God on their own terms.

Worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth
- enable participants to consider moral questions in a Christian context
- enhance social understanding and encourage responses to issues through support
- give participants a chance to reflect on the place and importance of faith in the lives of people today



- encourage participants to explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage
- reflect the teachings of Jesus.



### **The Pattern of Collective Worship**

Collective worship mainly takes place in St Mary's Church of England, which is adjacent to our school. At time worship takes place in classrooms and on occasions outside. We follow the seasons of the Church year and within these significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost. Other important days in the calendar such as Remembrance and the Leavers' Service also feature in collective worship.

Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote participants' thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

### **Leading worship**

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church Community. Pupils are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to contribute to collective worship from time to time. Guidance is given as to the order of service and our worship policy. Leaders from Christian denominations and faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

### **Planning Acts of Collective Worship**

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme and the needs of the pupils. The themes of worship are chosen to both express and explore our vision and the way in which this vision is experienced in school through the associated values. Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as dance and drama alongside more traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song. We will also introduce pupils to a range of approaches to worship.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to 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.

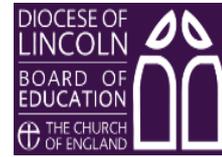
Our worship is reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection. This leads or influences the planning of future worship.

### **A legal note.**

By law, Collective Worship must:



- be provided for every child every day;
- reflect the school's Trust Deed.



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 and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the Headteacher.

Policy reviewed and approved by Governors \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Signed by Chair of Governors .....

Policy for review 2022