

# Shorne Church of England Primary School

(A member of the Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust)



## Collective Worship Policy

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**Lead Governor: Revd Ted Hurst**

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# Contents

1. Vision .....	3
2. Introduction .....	3
3. Our Christian Values .....	3
4. Collective Worship .....	3
5. The Anglican Christian Tradition .....	4
6. Implementation .....	4
7. Induction Programme for Children in the Foundation Stage .....	5
8. Monitoring and Evaluation .....	5
9. Self-evaluation and Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) .....	5
10. Parental Withdrawal .....	5

## 1. Vision

Our vision for Shorne Church of England Primary School is to provide an outstanding education inspired by the Christian faith, developing our children into honest, caring future citizens with a desire to learn and achieve and to take pride in and celebrate their achievements. We are a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School in the Diocese of Rochester.

### **“Growing Together In Learning and In Faith”**

## 2. Introduction

“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”.

*William Temple (1881-1894)*

Our Collective Worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship will reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognize and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

In this Church of England School we hope that the love of Jesus Christ will be evident to all who come within our walls and will guide not only our daily acts of Collective Worship, but become a firm foundation for the whole life of the school, guiding all that we do and say. We hope that the children of this school as they grow physically and mentally, will also grow socially and spiritually, so gaining a real respect for themselves, for each other, and indeed, for the whole of this exciting world - God's world - in which we all live.

## 3. Our Christian Values

These are:

- Respect through Love
- Achievement through Learning
- Perseverance through Faith

## 4. Collective Worship

Our aims are to:

- explore a relationship with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- reflect on our explicit Christian values
- develop personal spirituality especially through prayer, and also through a range of other experiences
- be engaged in an exploration of the relevance and application of the Christian faith
- develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared Christian values
- foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it

## 5. The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following may be described as shared Christian elements of collective worship:

- using the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Saints Days
- learning and saying Christian prayers from a number of sources, for example, the Lord's Prayer and the Grace
- using simple Anglican liturgy at levels appropriate to students'/pupils' age
- singing a wide variety of Christian hymns and songs
- experiencing Christian symbolism in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles
- using prayer, silence and reflection
- celebrating the Eucharist/Holy Communion

## 6. Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement. In line with the statutory requirement, a Christian act of Collective Worship is provided for all pupils every day. All teachers attend all acts of Collective Worship. Time allocated to collective worship is not part of curriculum time.

### Planning for collective worship:

- a. Collective Worship has a range of leaders including the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, class teachers, Church representatives and Faith Leaders. Worship is held either for a Key Stage, a class or as a whole school in the school hall, in classrooms and at our Church St Peter and St Paul's
- b. the planning of Collective Worship is undertaken by the Headteacher with advice from the incumbent, and taking into account feedback from the children, staff, governors, parents and visitor
- c. the Diocesan Framework for worship is used to plan worship, supplemented by other worship resources, and key events throughout the course of the year
- d. a range of experiences are planned for, including: dramatised bible stories; bible readings; music; formal prayers; silence and reflection; hymns and songs; photographs and video clips
- e. children's involvement in leading and contributing to Collective Worship is essential. Children contribute by sharing their reflections and prayers, lighting the candle and reading from the bible, and participating in the Eucharist Services. Each class leads an act of worship three times a year, and contributes to whole school worship at Christmas, Easter and Harvest. 'Faith Leaders' from year 5 and 6 lead the gathering, prayers and blessings during worship
- f. as worship is an integral part of life in our church school, opportunities will arise within all aspects of school life to promote it. We recognise that worship is not restricted to the gathering of the school community in the hall or classrooms but can be a response to a sense of awe and wonder or need by the individual, group or class at any time during the school day. We aim to promote opportunities to allow pupils to worship in response to the situations which arise in their daily lives. Class teachers ensure flexibility in the timetable to allow for reflection and spiritual development across the curriculum

## **7. Induction Programme for Children in the Foundation Stage**

When pupils join Shorne Church of England Primary School in the reception classes they hold their own daily Act of Worship. When appropriate the children are gradually integrated into whole school Acts of Worship.

## **8. Monitoring and Evaluation**

The governor responsible for Collective Worship undertakes monitoring of Collective Worship twice a year, alongside the Headteacher. This includes observing a range of leaders and types of worship, undertaking pupil voice sessions, speaking to staff and monitoring planning and resources.

## **9. Self-evaluation and Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)**

School Self-evaluation is completed on the SIAMS Self-evaluation forms provided by the Diocese. Worship is inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act (SIAMS).

## **10. Parental Withdrawal**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from acts of Collective Worship. However, as Collective Worship is central to our ethos so our Headteacher would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents. If a parent decided to withdraw their child/children from Collective Worship this should be put in writing to the Headteacher.