

# Shorne Church of England Primary School

(A member of the Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust)



## Collective Worship Policy

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<b>Lead Governor: Revd Ted Hurst</b>
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## 1. Vision

Our vision at Shorne C of E Primary School is to develop life-long learners that have a clear understanding of the world in which we live through the acquisition of skills and knowledge. Developing their unique God given talents which will enable them to contribute, collaborate and flourish in a global society. Our school vision is reflected in our school statement, 'Growing together in Learning and in faith', underpinned by the Christian narrative **"...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord..."** Peter 3:18.

## 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 recognise 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:

- Resilience
- Community
- Respect

## 4. Collective Worship

We understand as a Christian School, that all faiths and non-faiths are represented in our community. 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.
- Explore other world faiths and important world festivals.

## 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.
- 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.

## 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 staff attend all acts of Collective Worship. Time allocated to collective worship is not part of curriculum time. At Shorne C of E Primary School, we are aware our community includes families of different faiths and no faith, therefore all acts of prayer are in invitational. During this time, children are encouraged to develop their spiritual thinking using our 'Windows, Mirrors and Doors' approach.

### Planning for collective worship:

- Collective Worship has a range of leaders including the Head of School, Deputy Head of School, 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
- the planning of Collective Worship is undertaken by the Collective Worship Lead with advice from the incumbent, and taking into account feedback from the children, staff, governors, parents and visitor.
- the Diocesan Framework for worship is used to plan worship, supplemented by other worship resources, and key events throughout the course of the year.
- 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
- 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. Each class leads a religious festival service once a year at our church. 'Faith Leaders' from every year group lead the liturgy, prayers and acts of worship.
- 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 Head of School. 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 Head of School 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 Head of School.