



St. Michael's CEP School

Collective Worship  
Policy

[Approved: June 2017]

[To be reviewed: June 2019]

# **Collective Worship Policy**

[See also RE Policy; Gifted & Talented; ]

## **1 Worship Policy Statement for St. Michael's School, Bodenham**

1.1 Collective worship at Bodenham aims to:

- Provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs;
- To encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered;
- To develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes;
- To establish, explore and reinforce the common Christian values of the school community such as love, peace, kindness and compassion.
- To celebrate gifts , talents and achievements and enjoy celebrations.

## **2 Definition of Worship**

2.1 Christian worship is concerned with bringing praise, prayer, thanksgiving and adoration to God. It is the Christian's loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship with Him, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. (Taken from the Hereford Diocesan Board of Education – Guidelines for Collective Worship in Church Schools).

2.2 As a church school, our act of worship will aim to be in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England: in other words reliably Christian (at the very least, based on Christian values and teachings) (Hereford Diocesan Advice).

## **3 Collective Worship**

3.1 Collective worship is founded on six principles:

- Educational
- Curricular
- Will contribute to RE
- Inclusive
- Shaped to our needs
- Will have a sense of occasion

## **4. Aims of Collective Worship**

4.1.1 To be a special time with a distinctly spiritual atmosphere, conducive to worship and to an awareness of God's presence.

4.2 To provide opportunity, time and encouragement for reflection.

4.3 To provide the opportunity to celebrate the values and worth of the school community.

4.4 To learn about and reflect on Christian teaching and festivals.

4.4.1 To create an ethos, an atmosphere where God and the spiritual is both normal and natural.

- 4.5** To explore how others worship God and why.
- 4.6** It is understood and recognised that Collective Worship will make a significant contribution to the aims of the school (see Prospectus).
- 4.7** It is collective Worship that provides perhaps the best opportunity for spiritual development. This special occasion gives opportunity for children to have:
- A time for reflection
  - A time for worship and prayer
  - A time to consider the great questions in life
  - A time to learn from others
  - A time to find space for themselves and for God

## **5 Management of Collective Worship**

- 5.1** Collective Worship is managed on this pattern:
- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Monday    | Whole school                                |
| Tuesday   | Whole school (and Songs and Praise)         |
| Wednesday | Huff and Puff silent prayers / KS1 and Rec. |
| Thursday  | Huff and Puff silent prayers / KS2          |
| Friday    | Visiting Speakers (Whole school)            |

Also on the first Friday of every month and also for at least one each of the Key Stage assemblies, Rev. Heather Short comes to lead our act of worship. We have also instigated a "Prayers to Share" book which travels between Church and School. We share these each week in services and assemblies so are praying for each others' needs.

- 5.2** All means possible will be taken that all children will have opportunity to attend collective worship – unless withdrawn by their parents, or through curricula or medical needs. Supervision where required will be provided.
- 5.3** Collective Worships are linked, where relevant, to the Church's year, important events and to the RE Curriculum across the school.
- 5.4** Opportunity to lead collective worship is given to the Headteacher and staff, Parish Clergy, visiting Ministers; children are encouraged to contribute where appropriate (or possible).
- 5.5** Our acts of worship may include: God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, silence, praise, mystery, learning, ritual, music, caring, dance, concern, guidance, contribution, listening, singing, wonder, family, giving, action, adoration, prayer, tears, awe, relationships, laughter, stillness, fellowship, grief, meditation, Hope, saying sorry, reverence, joy, loving, offering and reading.
- 5.6** Resources available for collective worship include: story assembly books, songs, focus table and relevant symbols of faith.
- 5.7** There is a book to record: Music, Theme; Prayer, Hymn.
- 5.8** Throughout the year we take a different Christian value each half term which forms the basis of our times of worship. We also take opportunities throughout the half term to teach the children how they can show this value at school and at home,

## **6 Right of withdrawal**

- 6.1** We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

## **7 Monitoring and review**

- 7.1** Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship and religious education is the role of Elizabeth Alty (Headteacher) and of Heather Short (our present vicar).
- 7.2** This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.

**Signed:**

**Date:**