

Sparsholt Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

1. Rationale

The majority of Collective Worship must be wholly or mainly of a Christian character. It is an opportunity for the whole school to come together. Collective Worship in school is collective and inclusive, enabling all to take part.

Our Collective Worship creates a time and space where we can come closer to God and God can come closer to us. Opportunities are given to explore and share beliefs; to consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence, to consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives; to think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community; and to appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them.

Our Collective Worship offers the opportunity to explore, interpret and put into practice our MOSAIC values where 'we let the teachings of Jesus guide us in all that we do'.

It may provide time to celebrate the achievements of members of the community that are held to be of worth but this will still be in keeping with the Christian message of the week's theme.

2. Aims

Our aims concerning **Worship** are

- to observe the religious cycle of the Christian year i.e. Advent, Christmas, Easter
- to observe Saints days and other key holy days
- to share in a commitment to dialogue with other faiths and celebrate shared values and beliefs.
- to participate in worship in our local Church once each term.
- to create a worshipful atmosphere using entry music.
- to enable pupils to experience ritual and the vocabulary of worship.
- to use songs and hymns to enhance worship.

Our aims concerning **reflection** are:

- to use the bible as a source book for inspiration and learning
- to provide an opportunity for pupils to experience worship in which God and Jesus are the foci

- to foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy;
- to give memorable and enjoyable experiences
- to respond to the aesthetic - music, poetry, art, literature
- to use visual foci and Christian symbols
- to enable pupils to encounter the vocabulary of prayer
- to give pupils a variety of experiences to enable them to reflect, these will include, stories, drama, dance, poetry, music, mime and use of media.

Our aims concerning **personal development** are:

- to help pupils discover their place in the world
- to highlight and nurture spiritual development through experiencing worship
- to heighten awareness of ultimate questions and to provide the opportunity to reflect upon these
- to help pupils explore and develop their own spirituality
- to support the search for meaning and purpose in life
- to enable pupils to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation, meditation and (where appropriate) prayer

Our aims concerning **community** are:

- to reflect the school's nature as an inclusive community;
to promote a feeling of community in the school through a sharing of experiences and feelings
- to develop personal relationships and to encourage social and moral development
- to provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others
- to provide an opportunity for pupils to become acquainted with people from the local and wider communities, including the local churches
- to encourage respect and care for the world by nurturing a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues
- to enable pupils to appreciate their worth and value in the community
- to celebrate gifts, talents and achievements
- to help establish and reinforce the shared values of the school community.

3. Organisation

Our Collective Worship will last for approximately twenty minutes. Music will be played as the children enter. Each day we will have a story or some other stimulation. A song or hymn will be sung and there will be a time of reflection which may be a prayer.

Monday	Whole school	Headteacher
Tuesday	Whole school	Deputy Headteacher
Wednesday	Class Assembly	Class teachers
Thursday	Whole school	Class teachers in rota
Friday	Whole school - Celebration	Headteacher

A theme is chosen for each week by the Collective Worship team which consists of 6 pupils and the collective worship co-ordinator. The planning for Collective Worship will take place at the end of each term in readiness for the following term. A variety of published and internet resources are used for the planning. The plan may change in response to local, national or world events and will encompass important dates in the Christian calendar. Festivals from other religions will be recognised as part of our Collective Assembly. Collective Worship will take place in church for the celebration of some festivals, we aim for one visit each term.

Every effort will be made to involve visitors from charitable organisations, other denominations and the wider community.

The school will come together each Friday to celebrate the achievements of members of the school community. Peers and staff will nominate children for their achievements in behaviour and work.

4. Special Educational Needs

Staff recognise the need to make Collective Worship accessible to all and as such a range of texts are used.

5. Role of the Co-ordinator

The role of the Collective Worship co-ordinator is:

- To lead the Worship team to plan themes and give guidance for staff.
- to adapt the plan in response to local, national or world events
- to keep up-to-date with recent publications and developments in the thinking on Collective Worship
- to liaise with the Clergy of the Parish of Sparsholt, Littleton and Crawley.

6. Participation

It is a legal requirement that every child will participate in a Daily Act of Collective Worship. It is the right of parents to request that their children be withdrawn from religious assemblies if they are of a different faith. Parents wishing to exercise this right are requested to do so in writing to the Headteacher. Appropriate arrangements for the supervision of pupils will be

made in consultation with the Headteacher, teachers, Governors and the parents.

7. How the Policy developed

A draft policy was written by the co-ordinator in the summer term 2006. It was written with close reference to the Winchester Diocesan Policy, 2006. These proposals were agreed/discussed with staff and governors in Jan 2007. The policy came up for review in January 2010, and the co-ordinator reviewed the policy and refreshed the content at a staff meeting in February 2010. Curriculum Committee governors agreed the policy in March 2010.

8. Reference: – Diocesan policy on collective worship (2006).

Person responsible: Mrs L J Laver

Governor responsibility: Chair of CC + Rev Jax

Committee responsible: Curriculum

Discussed by staff: March 2015

Discussed and agreed by CC: May 2015

Next review: March 2018