



“...Let us remember that, as many  
hands build a house, so many  
hearts make a school.”

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

# St. Paul's Church of England Primary School Collective Worship Policy

### Key Contact Personnel

Nominated Member of Leadership Staff Responsible for the policy: Ben Hulme

Named Governor with lead responsibility: Johnny Douglas/Lyn Moseley

Date written: November 2018

Date agreed and ratified by Governing Body/Trust/Committee: January 2019

Date of next review: January 2020

**Headteacher**

**Chair of Governors**

**This policy will be reviewed at least annually, and following any concerns and/or updates to national/local guidance or procedures**

# **St. Paul's Church of England Primary School**

## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **School Vision**

We are a creative, forward thinking Church of England Primary School that aims for 'Life in all its fullness' (the Gospel of John 10:10) to enable each child to flourish through the provision of the best education; academically, morally, socially and spiritually; and by living out our faith in God.

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctive Christian character of our school, reaffirms our Christian values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England as well as other Christian traditions, and recognizes and follows the Church's liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

### **Rationale**

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Members of the school assemble together and participate in an act of collective worship. We encourage everyone to take an active part in worship at their own level.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and our Church of England status, we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church and in accordance with the school's Trust Deed. However, we also conduct our assemblies based on moral and social code or special events in the school or general calendar. E.g. Environmental Days, Sports Relief etc.

### **Aims and Purpose**

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues within a Christian framework;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage reflection, participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to encourage a sense of awe and wonder;
- to teach children how to worship;

- to encourage children to pray and see the value of prayer;
- to celebrate God's creation.

## **Organisation of Collective Worship**

We hold an act of collective worship in our school every day at 2.55 p.m.

Monday: Whole School

Tuesday: Whole School

Wednesday: Hymn Practice, thought for the day and prayers.

Thursday: Denominational/whole school

Friday: Sharing and Celebration Assembly

We encourage children and adults to worship in a variety of ways: dance, singing, praise and prayer. We expect everyone to be sensitive to each other and to the person leading worship. Children know there are times when everyone is quiet and reflective. We include times of open prayer. We use candles, bible texts, pictures and music to create an atmosphere conducive to worship. We also have an Interactive White Board available.

The Headteacher and other members of staff lead worship times on a rota. In addition to this, the Youth Ministers of the parish church leads a weekly worship with the school.

We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith, spiritual and moral issues, festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Collective Worship planning from the Diocese of Rochester, form the basis of termly planning. Worship times are planned by the Headteacher half-termly and are displayed in the staffroom.

Our worship times reflect the achievements and learning of the children as part of a celebration of God's amazing creation. Worship time offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. Worship plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

To celebrate Christian festivals we go to St Paul's Church, Swanley, to worship and invite parents to join us.

Each class has a Worship display for the children to use throughout the day. There are also times during the day when the children gather together to worship in the classroom. Please refer to the RE Policy.

Our Friday Sharing Assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in these assemblies by showing their work to the other children and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes.

## **Right of Withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. We offer all parents the opportunity to discuss worship plans if this helps them make an informed decision about withdrawal. Any request for withdrawal must be made in writing. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who are withdrawn from collective worship.

## **SEN, Gifted and Talented, Vulnerable Groups**

At our school we encourage all children, whatever their ability and individual needs to attend collective worship. We endeavour to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, those with disabilities, those with special gifts and talents and those learning English as an additional language, and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this.

## **Health and Safety**

Collective Worship follow the SCC guidelines for H&S and the safeguarding of all pupils using risk assessments.

## **Monitoring and Review**

It is the role of a named governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.