

# Antony C of E Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy



### Our Vision

Collective Worship provides an opportunity for the Christian Values, which are the foundation on which we build our school, to permeate everything we do. There is a particular focus on encouraging pupils and staff to be the best that they can be, by recognising and developing their individual talents and sharing these within our school family.

### Core Principles

- We will provide the opportunity for everyone to achieve their full potential.
- We set high expectations for ourselves and each other.
- We will ensure that Christian values are at the heart of our community.
- We take into account the unique qualities of each child and ensure their individual needs are met.
- We will involve parents and carers in the education of their children and encourage their participation in school life.
- We will ensure all children have access to an engaging and exciting curriculum that promotes learning and makes full use of the outdoor environment and our rural setting.

### Aims and purpose

Our aims and purpose of Collective Worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the whole school to meet, celebrate and give thanks and praise to God
- To develop the children's spiritual understanding
- To develop the children's understanding of the Christian faith
- To provide experiences for all children and understanding of different faiths and cultures
- To foster the school's Christian ethos
- To share and experience cultural differences
- To encourage a sense of personal, social and moral responsibility

- To build a sense of group identity
- To involve all children of different (or no) religious belief in celebrating their personal worth
- To allow children to reflect, express, affirm or challenge commonly accepted personal views and social values
- To provide time for stillness, quiet and reflection
- To evoke within the children senses and feelings
- To evoke a sense of awe and wonder
- To relate spiritual and moral values to the daily life of the school
- To celebrate the life of the Church

## Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils which takes account of their age and aptitude. (Education Reform Act 1988). Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. Since this is a church school, however, worship is central to its life and work and is regarded as a very important part of children's education.

## Collective Worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship involves all members of the school coming together, as a class, key stage or whole school and participating in an assembly.

We normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Jesus Christ and traditions of the Christian faith. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of our acts of worship are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in school and the wider community. We welcome representatives from other faiths to lead our assemblies.

## Organisation

We hold a daily act of worship in our school and this forms part of each assembly. The children will meet as a whole school family, class families and key stage groups. It may include: music, song, stories, shared experiences, discussions, readings from sacred writings, prayer and reflection.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We ask children to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings, creating a special time each day. We encourage an appropriate atmosphere by using music and candles or other objects as a focal point.

The Head of School, members of staff and the Junior Worship Team normally conduct acts of worship together with regular visits from church clergy and other visitors.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the Christian faith and we always reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We plan the themes in advance based on our three

Christian values. Sometimes the themes of our worship reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the curriculum. Sometimes our worship is focused on a significant local or world event.

Further opportunities for children to experience awe and wonder are provided in curriculum areas such as Religious Education, Literacy, Art, Science, PHSE, Music and our outdoor curriculum..

Our worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. They offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and loved in equal measure and should be proud of their individual gifts/talents.

We have a Junior Worship Team which is a group of children who lead worship for the whole school. The team uses the published scheme 'The Twelve Baskets' which is linked to the SEAL themes through Biblical texts. They also have the flexibility to choose the themes of some assemblies depending on ideas received from the children. They are encouraged to explain their ideas and thoughts in a much more 'child-friendly' way and the children really enjoy their assemblies.

Families and friends are invited to join us at our local churches to help us to worship and celebrate Christian Festivals and school achievements, which are generally led by the head of school or parish priest with participation from each class or a group of children. This promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way home and school work together to support the achievements of our children.

## Right of Withdrawal

Collective Worship at Antony CE Primary School is inclusive and planned to accommodate all children, however parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. We expect all children to attend Collective Worship and no child is withdrawn for individual tuition. However, in order to comply with the 1944 Education Act and the 1988 Education Reform Act, any parent/carer can request for permission to withdraw their child from collective worship. It is suggested that a meeting is held before a final decision is made and then notice of the withdrawal must be made in writing to the Head of School. The school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned.

The Head of School will keep a record of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship.

## Monitoring

Monitoring occurs informally through staff discussion and through valued feedback from children, parents/carers and visitors. We also have a record of formal evaluation which is completed by staff, children and Governors.

The Head of School and named governor will complete regular reviews identifying the strengths and weaknesses of Collective Worship and highlight any areas for further development.

## Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed as part of the cycle of Policy review in September 2025.