



MENDIP EDGE FEDERATION

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

FOR CHEDDAR FIRST SCHOOL, DRAYCOTT & RODNEY STOKE C OF E FIRST SCHOOL  
AND SHIPHAM C OF E FIRST SCHOOL

### **INTRODUCTION**

Collective Worship is central to the life of the school and contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the school community, which is key to the ethos of our church schools. Collective worship reflects the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. This will include belief in God the source of all being and life, belief in Jesus who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection and belief in the Holy Spirit who makes the presence of Jesus known in the world.

Whilst Collective Worship is planned to be inclusive, in line with the school Trust Deeds and Church of England Foundation, it is distinctively Christian in character and incorporates some elements of the Anglican tradition.

### **AIMS AND PURPOSE**

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship that will allow children to respond to the presence, power and peace of God
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues based on Christian teaching
- To enable children to explore their own and other's beliefs
- To strengthen and support the school community giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school
- To encourage children's sense of wonder and to develop curiosity, gratitude and a celebration of life
- To encourage the ability to forgive and accept forgiveness
- To show how God has worked through ordinary people throughout the world in the past and present and the relevance of faith and belief in people's lives today
- To celebrate the gifts that each child brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual
- To develop in children a sense of belonging to a wider community, including local churches
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes

### **ORGANISATION**

- An act of worship will take place daily, usually as a whole school but sometimes in a class setting
- Links with our local church are valued and acts of worship, together with parents, are regularly celebrated in church, to which parents and community members are invited
- Acts of worship provide opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer, as well as joyful praise and singing.
- Acts of worship will mainly be of a distinctively Christian character, reflecting Christian belief and fostering respect for and understanding of Christian symbols. Stories from other faiths and cultures may be included and links will be made with the Religious Education curriculum where appropriate.

- The Head Teacher or members of staff normally conduct worships but local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups, approved by the Head Teacher and Governors are also invited to lead them.
- Children are encouraged to contribute their own ideas and material when appropriate.
- An appropriate atmosphere is created through the use of candles, music, art, artefacts and symbols.
- The themes of our collective worships are taken from the traditions of the Christian faith, Christian values and we celebrate the festivals and events of the Christian calendar.
- One Act of Worship each week celebrates the talents and achievements of the children.
- Acts of worship are regarded as a special time and it is expected that children will behave in an appropriate way. Children are expected to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully and participate fully in prayer and hymns.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole school cycle of self-review and this will be achieved over time by asking all stakeholders to reflect on school worship.

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the Head Teacher and the Foundation Governors. The evidence will include:

- Written observations; checking that practice matches planning
- Observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- Conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback
- Seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors
- Observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- Holding regular discussions with colleagues
- Gathering written comments from colleagues on the worship planning sheet

### **RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL**

We expect all children to attend collective worships. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be withdrawn from attending collective worship after consultation with Head Teacher. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this, although suitable arrangements will need to be made to accommodate these children. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. 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.

### **REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed every three years.

Date Reviewed December 2016

Date to be reviewed December 2019