



St Nicholas Priory VA CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

St Nicholas Priory VA CE Primary School defines collective worship as being worship that reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief. We believe that collective worship should provide children with the opportunity to be part of an experience, which is special and separate from other daily activities. We believe that collective worship has the potential to unite the whole of the school and therefore to develop a sense of community. Collective worship is part of St Nicholas Priory VA CE Primary School's contribution to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child.

1. Aims for Collective Worship

We aim to achieve high quality education supported by strong Christian principles, within a Christian community. We aim:

- ✓ to contribute to our children's spiritual development
- ✓ to introduce our children to the worship of the C of E
- ✓ to gain in knowledge and understandings of the Christian faith
- ✓ to explore and share the beliefs of others
- ✓ to contribute to our children's moral development
- ✓ to contribute to the general development of our children
- ✓ to celebrate and take note of the life of the school in the presence of God
- ✓ to look out to the wider world (*see the expanded aims appended below**)

2. Expectations of our children

Children will take part in a range of worship activities - singing, praying, reading, hearing, acting... - that allow them to experience God in a stimulating, active and enjoyable way.

3. Organisation and delivery

As a Church school we are proud of our links with our local Minster. We aim to have a full school Collective Worship service at Great Yarmouth Minster for Harvest Festival, Christmas, Easter and for the year 6 children in the summer term.

Collective worship is as follows:

EYES and KS1

Monday – 11am Reception collective worship in EYES unit, 11.15am Year 1 collective worship in unit, 11.30am Year 2 collective worship in hall.

Tuesday and Thursday EYES and KS1 class collective worship as decided by teachers

Wednesday – 2.45pm EYES and KS1 collective worship in the hall led by Linda Dyble

Friday – 11am EYES and KS1 celebration collective worship led by Linda Dyble

KS2

Monday – 11.15am Years 3 and 4 collective worship in the hall led by Reverend Jemma or another representative from the Minster, 12.30pm Years 5 and 6 led by Jim Little and Maria Grimmer

Tuesday and Thursday - class collective worship as decided by the teachers

Wednesday – 11.15am Years 5 and 6 led by a representative from the Minster, 12.30pm Years 3 and 4 in the hall led by Jim Little and Maria Grimmer

Friday – 11.30am Years 3 and 4 celebration collective worship in the hall led by Jim Little and Maria Grimmer, 2.45pm Years 5 and 6 celebration collective worship in the hall led by Jim Little and Maria Grimmer

A range of activities is encouraged. It is likely that each act of collective worship will include one or more of the following:

- ✓ Introductory music to create a mood and focus attention
- ✓ The singing of hymns and songs
- ✓ The reading of a short passage from the Bible
- ✓ Hearing a talk or a story
- ✓ Opportunities for reflective silence
- ✓ Collectively saying The Lord's Prayer
- ✓ Audiovisual material
- ✓ Drama and role-play
- ✓ Active pupil involvement.
- ✓ Where possible visiting clergy will be asked to follow these suggestions.

4. Records

We use the 'Roots and Fruits' materials which focus on a different value each half term and are closely linked with the Christian church calendar. The theme for collective worship is

displayed on the collective worship board in the hall. Clergy from the Minster, phase leaders and the RE Ambassadors all follow the same structure during collective worship using the resources from 'Roots and Fruits'.

5. Statutory Requirements

Collective worship at St Nicholas Priory VA CE Primary School complies with the legal requirements as set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The law states the 'Collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character which means that it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief'.

At St Nicholas Priory VA CE Primary School we recognise that collective worship needs to be flexible enough to encompass the age, aptitude and background of all the children in the school.

Central to our understanding of worship in schools is the realisation that our children should learn of the need for a spiritual dimension to life – the recognition that without it a pupil's total education will be noticeably impoverished.

Whilst recognising the fact that we live in a multi-faith society we believe that it is our responsibility to reflect Christian beliefs and accept that the school can, and should, openly witness to its Christian nature.

All collective worship will be in accordance with the principles and beliefs of the Church of England.

6. Withdrawal rights

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from attendance at collective worship.

Should such a request be made the Head teacher will invite the parent(s) to discuss the matter in order that necessary arrangements can be made, and to ensure that all the practical implications of withdrawal are appreciated.

7. Relationship with the church community

As a church aided school we seek to maintain good relationships with both the worshipping community at St Nicholas Church and the churches of other local Christian denominations.

Expanded Aims from 1 above

To contribute to children's spiritual development, e.g.

- Experience what worship is and what people do when they worship.
- Develop ability to meditate and use silence creatively
- Reflect on and think more deeply about important issues
- Foster a sense of awe and wonder at creation
- Celebrate all that is of value in life truth, love, goodness, beauty etc.
- Explore mystery and the important questions about life and creation, including the dark side of life, e.g. suffering, loss, death and evil
- Express their concerns, hopes, joys, etc.
- Build up their relationship with God

To introduce children to the worship of the Church of England e.g.

- Learn to use the church prayers, liturgy, and service books
- Learn the important and famous prayers of Christianity
- Learn appropriate responses and forms of prayer
- Give children a repertoire of prayers to take into adult life
- Experience different forms of Christian worship and worship material

To gain in knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith, e.g.

- Explore Christian beliefs about God
- Learn about the place and significance of the Bible
- Learn about the significance of Jesus
- Explore the nature of God as revealed in Jesus
- Share in Church life and Christian practice
- Experience different forms of worship
- Celebrate the festivals and Saints days of the church year Build up sense of community of the school
- Develop and reflect on the values of the school
- Share achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community

To explore and share the beliefs of others, e.g.

- Listen to stories from our own and other faiths and learn about their significance
- Observe special celebrations from other faiths
- Discover how believers from other faiths worship
- Celebrate values and attitudes shared with members of other faith communities

To contribute to children's moral development, e.g.

- Develop ability to reflect on moral and social issues
- Appreciate the values and beliefs that people live by
- Acknowledge and become more aware of the needs of others

To contribute to the general development of children, e.g.

- Provide them with opportunities for leadership and developing presentation and performance skills
- Learn the skill of choral speaking
- Develop children’s singing ability
- Participate in group planning, preparation and presentation

To celebrate and take note of the life of the school in the presence of God, e.g.

- Celebrate work undertaken by children in all areas of the curriculum
- Build up sense of community of the school
- Develop and reflect on the values of the school
- Share achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community

To look out to the wider world

- To take note of events in the world and express joy or sorrow as appropriate
- To celebrate and give thanks for God’s world

This policy was reviewed and updated in October 2017 by RE Coordinator, Romy Simons.

Next review date: October 2020.

Signed by

Name Date.....

(On behalf of the Governing Body)

Headteacher..... Date