



# St Nicholas Priory VA CE Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

'I did not come to be served but to serve.' Matthew 20.28

St Nicholas Priory CE VA Primary School defines collective worship as a time to remember who we are both individually and together as a community. As a wholly Christian community, we remember that we are each precious and created by a loving God who cares about what happens to us and how we feel, and we need to learn and remember that for both ourselves and for one another, so that we grow in personal confidence and also in kindness and respect towards everyone else. We each have the likeness of God in us. "I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power...to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ..." (Ephesians 3:17-18).

### **Aims for Collective Worship**

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

We aim:

- ❖ To engage in an act of community.
- ❖ To express praise and thanksgiving to God.
- ❖ To be still and reflect.
- ❖ To explore the big questions of life and respond to national events.
- ❖ To foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness.
- ❖ To reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ.
- ❖ To affirm Christian values and attitudes.
- ❖ To share each other's joys and challenges.
- ❖ To celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.
- ❖ To contribute to our children's spiritual development
- ❖ To introduce our children to the wholly Christian worship of the Church of England
- ❖ 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 holistic development of our children
- ❖ To celebrate the life of the school and the children in the presence of God
- ❖ To look out to the wider world (*see the expanded aims appended below\**)

## Collective Worship and COVID Restrictions

Whilst it isn't possible to gather in large groups at this time our daily collective worships have now become classroom based and will continue to be that way until further guidance. Within the 'bubble worships' children have the opportunity to engage in collective worship through teacher led CW, Minister led CW through video link, and SLT led CW.

## Expectations of our children

Collective worship is a time for a fresh start. During this time we admit we all make mistakes and need to receive God's forgiveness and to forgive others and to persevere in trying to make better, kinder and braver choices. In our time of reflection and prayer, Christian worship is also a time to think about some of the difficult things in life and ask for God's help. We can think about things that worry us or are hard for people close to us or problems in the wider world and to pray for God's help- help to see things in a new way, help to keep going or to have new hope or even for help to change the world for the better.

"A wholly Christian understanding of reconciliation first of all hopes in God, and in Jesus as embodying peace – with God, within ourselves, with others, and with creation. Our first response is to trust that this peace has the last word – this is the good news. So we can face and repent of our own part in alienation, conflict and bad relationships. Then we can wholeheartedly be reconcilers."

## Collective worship essentials

All collective worship within St Nicholas Priory follows a pattern to ensure consistency;

- All children and adults within the class participate
- We say 'may the Lord be with you,' 'and also with you'
- We light a candle and set the table
- We say the Lord's Prayer
- We say ' Go in peace to love and serve the Lord'

## Organisation and delivery

### GATHERING:

We gather our thoughts. God is everywhere, but He promises to help us when we come to Him in worship. We begin by lighting a candle to acknowledge and welcome God's presence as we spend time in worship. We begin with the opening greeting '**The Lord be with you**' to which we reply '**And also with you**'.

### SHARING:

We reflect upon what is shared with us in collective worship. This may be an anecdote to help us to think about a concept, challenge or difficulty which everyone struggles with. A relevant story from the Bible which enables us to reflect on what it may say about human relationships and our relationship with God may be shared or there may be an object, image or article to look at which allows us to reflect together about a shared topic for prayer or a concept for understanding.

### RESPONDING:

After the focus for reflection, the congregation process what they have received either responding out loud through prayer or in silence through contemplation. If someone from the congregation wishes to share, as educators we know how to accept and affirm offered answers whilst encouraging further thought and it is crucial for spiritual wellbeing that worship time is a safe non-judgemental place. We will listen carefully and receive with gratitude and humility whatever we are offered because in worship we are facilitators and participants as much as leaders and teachers.

“Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5).

There will always be an opportunity to respond with shared prayers or a guided prayer and often prayer time will be finished by saying together the prayer that Jesus himself taught his disciples, The Lord’s Prayer.

### SENDING:

After worship we ALL need to go out and try and practise what we have learnt and we will be sent out as follows. The worship leader will say **‘Go in peace and love to serve God’** and the gathered will respond with **‘In the name of Christ, Amen’**.

A range of activities is encouraged within the gathering, sharing, responding and sending model. It is likely that each act of wholly Christian 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
- ❖ Hosted by a member of the clergy from the local Minster

### Records

We use plans which focus on a different Christian value each half term (Aspiration, Hope, Service, Forgiveness, Trust and Love) and are closely linked with the Christian church calendar. Clergy from the Minster, senior management and the standards leads all follow the same structure during collective worship using the St Nicholas Priory C.E.V.A. Primary School Guidance for Collective Worship and the gathering, sharing, responding and sending model.

### **Statutory Requirements**

Collective worship at St Nicholas Priory CE VA 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 CE VA 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 acceptance 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, be openly witness to its Christian nature.

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

### **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.

### **Relationship with the church community**

As a church aided school we seek to maintain good relationships with both the worshipping community at St Nicholas Minster 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

Signed by

Name ..... Date: 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020

(On behalf of the Governing Body)

Headteacher..... Date .....

**Next Review:** November 2021