

# St Ann's Church of England Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

### Introduction

As a Church of England Primary School, St Ann's School's worship policy not only follows the minimum statutory requirements common to all schools, as set down in the 1988 Education Reform Act (now consolidated in the 1996 Education Act), but is also in line with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England, as established for the school under its trust deeds. As a church school, collective worship is therefore a very important part of the life of our School.

### Aims

Our school worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils, as appropriate to their ages and aptitudes. For example

1. It helps pupils' **spiritual** development by teaching them about God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and giving them the opportunity to worship him together. Worship also enables them to hear about him from the Bible, to develop their relationship with him through prayer, and to reflect on themselves and his world.
2. It helps pupils' **moral** development by taking time to be aware of different life values, while developing a common ethos and shared values based on Christian standards. While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.
3. It promotes pupils' **social** development by helping them to feel part of a community, and will reinforce positive attitudes. Our worship will encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered.
4. It helps pupils' **cultural** development by drawing on the Christian heritage - both through the Bible and other key writings, and through religious festivals and practices.

### Organisation (When, Where, For Whom, and How)

School worship:

1. Takes place daily.
2. Is all inclusive – it is for all pupils, is open to governors and parents can be invited. Staff attend on a weekly rota.
3. Is for all pupils and May take place with different school groups.
4. Takes place either on the school premises or in the church.
5. Is planned, with specific themes, at a level in accordance with the differing age groups and levels of understanding in the school.
6. Celebrates the achievements and learning of pupils.

## **Content of Worship**

As a Church of England School, the content of our worship is organised to:

1. Cover all the major Christian Festivals (i.e. including Christmas, Easter and Pentecost)
2. Cover major world religions.
3. Draw on frequent Bible teaching, particularly as stories.
4. Be delivered in a variety of ways. (These will usually include music and songs, story and discussion, and a time for prayer and reflection.)

We draw upon a variety of sources.

## **Special Services and Church Links**

The school values both its special links with the incumbent and parish of St Ann's and its church and also its contacts with ministers of other Christian traditions. Once a month, the whole school worships in church, with an invitation extended to parents and friends. The dates and content are often planned to mark Christian festivals, or significant school occasions; the planning and leadership is shared by the vicar, church workers and staff.

## **Right of Withdrawal**

Although parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship, by making a written application for a place at St Ann's C of E Primary School they are asked to sign to say that they understand the centrality of Christianity to the school and nature of the school as a place of religious education and collective worship in its daily life.

The head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

## **Monitoring and Review**

It is the role of the named school governor with responsibility for R.E. and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the head teacher before reporting to the governors on R.E. and collective worship.