

**Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.  
Colossians 2:23**



**St Mark's C of E Primary School**

**Collective Worship Policy**

**Approved by governors: (date)**

**Reviewed: January 2018**

**To be reviewed: January 2019**

## **Mission Statement**

At St Mark's C of E Primary School we will:

- Welcome everyone
- Build Christian values and worship into our teaching
- Establish strong links between home, school and community
- Endeavour to reach our full potential and celebrate our achievements
- Care for, encourage and respect each other
- Support each other to stay safe, healthy and make a positive contribution to our World

*Our school is a place where every person has the right to be themselves and to belong and learn in a safe and happy environment. Everyone at our school is equal and treats each other with respect and kindness. We do not tolerate bullying.*

### **1 Aims and objectives**

1.1 The aims and objectives of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- To enable staff to learn how to lead worship with increasing confidence
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship in wide variety of ways

### **2 Collective worship**

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all phases of the school coming together and participating in worship. We expect everyone to take an active part in our worship

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our worship on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Anglican Church. However, we conduct our worship in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.3 While all acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

### **3 Organisation of collective worship**

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each morning or afternoon for key stage two. Two days in each week, the worship is class based to give children and adults the opportunity to respond, in worship, to events that may be relevant to

that group. We also aim to teach our children about the value of personal prayer in these sessions. We also join with the parish for parish Eucharist every week, one class at a time. Children are encouraged to take communion when they have been confirmed or where parents permit, because of practice in their own church. This is in line with the policy of the PCC on admission to communion before confirmation. Before Anglican children are admitted to communion, permission is sought from parents and a course of preparation is followed, led by the incumbent and representative of the PCC.

- 3.2 We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and a candle is always lit. Other objects can be used to focus the attention of the children.
- 3.3 Worship is conducted by the Headteacher and members of staff, but are sometimes led by local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups. We intend that staff use worship leading as an opportunity to grow in spiritual maturity should they wish.
- 3.4 We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our worship a term in advance to fit in with our ethos and worship themes for the whole year.
- 3.5 Our Friday worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. Worship provides an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and to offer those achievements to God. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. St Marks Church of England Primary School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children in all our worship.
- 3.6 There are regular acts of worship that parents and carers are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements. We mark rites of passage such as leavers worship, saints days and special celebrations or achievements with Christian worship. In 2017 we will introduce a new starters worship to strengthen the relationship between parish and school.
- 3.7 Governors' attendance at our worship is always welcome.

#### **4 Right of withdrawal**

- 4.1 We expect all children to attend worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents and carers do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- 4.2 The headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

## **5 Monitoring and review**

- 5.1 Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of school governors, who is also responsible for religious education. This is delegated to the ethos group, who meet termly. The governors concerned liaise with the headteacher before reporting to the governors.