

# Whitesheet Primary Academy

## Collective Worship Policy

### ***‘Climbing to New Heights Together’***

Whitesheet Primary Academy's Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school's aims and ethos. Our vision and values are at the core of all we do. They underpin our teaching, learning and daily relationships and provide a firm foundation for all aspects of our children's development.

Our aim is to provide a happy and caring learning community where every child is known and feels special. We are rightly proud of our pupils, their understanding of the world around them, their achievements and the way they live out our values.

#### **Our Values**

We uphold our chosen Christian values which provide the focus for our worships and times of reflection whilst being interweaved within our daily actions. They enable our pupils to leave our school with a rich tapestry of core skills and knowledge resulting in a passion of lifelong learning and the belief that they can achieve anything.

~~Love is the overarching value for our school. It is the foundational message of Christian teaching and summarises of all~~ Our six core Christian values of **Community, Hope, Friendship, Respect, Resilience and Wisdom.**

#### **Our Vision – Climbing to New Heights Together**

We are committed to valuing and nurturing each child as an individual who will achieve their best and develop an enthusiasm for lifelong learning. Our vision is for the children in our school to grow into responsible, caring and fulfilled adults who actively and positively contribute to the society in which they live. We are committed to raising standards, values and self-esteem for all those involved with our school through cultivating a secure, yet exciting environment that is positive, supportive, stimulating and enriching.

#### **Our Aims**

We believe that Collective Worship is a significant educational activity which underpins the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all children and staff. It reflects and explores the school's distinctive character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of all learners.

Collective worship is planned to provide all members of the school community opportunities to:

- Worship God in an inclusive and sensitive way. It should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith,
- Learn from Biblical and Christian teaching.
- Develop a personal understanding of salvation and The Trinity - God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Develop and reflect on a common ethos and shared values.
- Personally respond to worship in a way that impacts daily life.
- Respond to Christian language and symbolism and experience stillness and quiet.
- Experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness or quiet reflection.
- Begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship in the Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements of those within the school and to take part in local, national and international occasions of significance, including festivals.

## **Collective Worship Programme**

Our worship programme is linked to the liturgical year and the Christian Value for that term:

Term 1: Friendship

Term 2: Respect

Term 3: Hope

Term 4: Wisdom

Term 5: Community

Term 6: Resilience

Worship songs are planned termly and carefully chosen to reflect our values and are key in expressing personal spirituality. We believe that worship through music is a core element of our daily collective worship and provides an opportunity to praise God and to express a range of emotions such as joy and wonder. Our worship songs should contain words and style of music which supports this.

### **Leading Worship**

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4 stage structure of planning including 'Gathering' 'Engaging' 'Responding' 'Sending'. We use the Roots and Shoots and Values for Life resources to help support the planning of Collective Worship.

#### **Gathering**

- We gather together and greet each other.
- We all come to play a part in this community.
- We are preparing to meet God.

#### **Engaging**

- We engage with the big things and the little things in life.
- We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible.
- We are listening for God's message for us.

#### **Responding**

- We respond to what we have heard and seen.
- We respond together as individuals.
- We are given the opportunity to worship God.

#### **Sending**

- We are sent out to love and serve one another and to make a difference in the world.
- We are all dismissed with God's blessing.

We attempt to mark out this special time by lighting and extinguishing a candle and saying the school Liturgy which is chosen by pupils on a termly basis.

### **Prayer**

Prayer is an important part of our worship. Our unique school prayer, which is used during collective worship, is very special to us and there is a strong sense of ownership amongst us. We also use 'The Lord's Prayer' and regularly reflect on the special meanings behind this Christian family prayer. Children are encouraged to lead their own prayers during worship and we remember and pray for past pupils by using prayer written by Year 6 leavers.

Children also have an opportunity to reflect and pray at any time through the use of our prayer station which is renewed regularly.

## **Our Worship Structure is:**

Monday – Open The Book or Singing Worship

Tuesday – Whole School Worship

Wednesday – Worship lead by clergy and staff from our parish church, St Martin's Church, Zeals.

Thursday – Class Singing Pop Worship

Friday – Whole School Worship / Family Celebration Worship

The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through our worship leaders. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning leading and monitoring of collective worship. They are also involved in the reflection of worship.

The Standards & Distinctiveness Committee monitor collective worship through their membership of the Governing Body.

## **Church Services**

Our parish church, St Martin's, is one of the cornerstones of village life in Zeals and the mutually supportive relationship between school and church is very important to us. As a whole school, we have the opportunity to worship at St Martin's Church several times throughout the year. Children work with clergy to lead worship, read the Bible and to lead prayers. Individual classes also visit the church as part of their RE curriculum.

## **Visitors**

We warmly welcome visitors to lead our daily act of worship. Children look forward to regular worship which is led by clergy and lay volunteers from our Church team.

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

## **Legal Status**

The Act of Collective Worship is the responsibility of the Governing Body in consultation with the Headteacher. It will be carried out in accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act and with the Trust Deed of the school, in accordance with the principles and teachings of the Church of England; although in accordance with modern ecumenical good practice it may reflect and draw upon non-Anglican (Christian) traditions. This policy has been drawn up by the Headteacher, in consultation with the teaching staff and with the approval of the Governing Body.

## **Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus and handbook. It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents or teachers contact needs to be made with the Head of School.

## **Review: Summer 2025**