



## St John's Walham Green CE Primary School

Policy Name	Collective Worship Policy			
Date	November 2014	Review Date	November 2017	
Responsibility	FGB	Resources	Curriculum	Headteacher
FGB agreed/ratified on:	24/09/14	Signed by:		

*St. John's Walham Green Church of England Primary School aspires to develop young people who are successful students, independent learners and confident individuals. We strive to ensure that our pupils become responsible citizens with a concern for the well-being of all God's creation.*

### **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES STATEMENT**

St John's School is committed to the principle of equal opportunity for all pupils irrespective of race, religion, gender, language, disability or family background. We believe that equal opportunity is at the heart of good educational practice and challenge any form of discrimination. All staff and governors are responsible for ensuring that we implement this policy".

The daily act of Collective Worship at St John's CE Primary School plays a central role in our life and work. It provides us with valuable opportunities to reaffirm our values and ethos. It offers important opportunities to strengthen our sense of community, belonging and inclusiveness and to reinforce the respect and care we have for each other. Through Collective Worship we make a significant contribution to the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of those present. We want all our children to 'enjoy and achieve' and Collective Worship provides a valuable vehicle for this.

### **Aims:**

- ◆ to provide children with a range of opportunities to worship God and develop spiritually (to grow closer to God and to deepen knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs and spiritual practices)
- ◆ to acquaint children with the liturgical practices, language and teaching of the Christian faith as exemplified in the Church of England
- ◆ to give children opportunities to reflect on the significance of Christian stories, events and festivals and how these might affect their lives;
- ◆ to teach respect for other faiths and religions
- ◆ to promote our shared values and contribute to our common life together by celebrating individual achievement, school achievement and wider community achievement within the context of Collective Worship.

## **Right of Withdrawal**

St John's Walham Green Church of England School is committed to valuing diversity and to equality of opportunity. We aim to create and promote an environment in which pupils, parents and staff are treated fairly and with respect, and feel able to contribute to the best of their abilities. The Governing Body recognises that it is unlawful to take into account anyone's gender, marital status, colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, disability, religious beliefs, age or sexual orientation. Full consideration has been given to this during the formulation of this policy as it is the governors' aim that no-one at St John's School should suffer discrimination, either directly or indirectly, or harassment on any of these grounds. Our Christian ethos pervades all areas of school life but we welcome those from all faiths to become part of our community. At the beginning of a person's relationship with the school, for example on a tour of the school for a new child or at an interview for a new member of staff, it is explained that by becoming part of a faith community, there is an agreement to embrace and accept our ethos by taking part in RE lessons and acts of worship.

We accept that in some cases, parents may wish to exercise their statutory right, under section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, to withdraw their children from this, and that parents are not obliged to give a reason for requesting withdrawal. Such requests should be made to the Headteacher in writing. We trust, however, that through open communication at the outset and a clear message about the vision and values of the school, such situations will be rare.

### **For the Pupils:**

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human

### **Planning and management of Acts of Collective Worship**

The Religious Education Co-ordinator, Headteacher, a chosen Governor (currently Father Mark) and pupils form a strategic collective worship planning group. The role of the team will be to plan, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship. They meet regularly to put in place a long, medium and short term plan of the collective worship at St John's.

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Termly planning sheets list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Together with weekly planning and recording sheets these will ensure that there is continuity and progression, and enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.

## **The Act of Collective Worship**

Collective worship takes place on a daily basis as a statutory requirement. This is either as a whole school, Key Stage or class worship as appropriate. They are wholly of a Christian character but can include discussions/ comparisons to world faiths and other religious festivals.

Monday	EYFS, KS1 and KS2 led by Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher
Tuesday	Led by Class teachers on a rota
Wednesday	Hymn Practice – singing worship where new hymns are learnt
Thursday	Fr Mark leads an assembly for EYFS and KS1 and mass for KS2
Friday	Celebration Assembly where achievements and attendance are acknowledged.
Services at St. John’s Church	Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas, Easter and Leavers’ services
Prayer	Each class has a prayer at the beginning of the day, lunchtime and at the end of the school day.

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The format of Daily Worship usually includes:

- The children coming in and going out to music
- The lighting of a candle to set the atmosphere and indicate a special time for the children to reflect and think and remember that Jesus is the light of the world.
- A time for reflection on their own or others’ experiences or on the theme of the worship
- Opportunities to learn more about the world in which they live
- Prayer
- Singing a song
- Children being involved in the worship

## **Leadership**

Every member of the school staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

## **Monitoring**

Monitoring of collective worship is carried out by the strategic planning group. Strategies for evidence during the review include;

- 1) gathering written comments from colleagues
- 2) regular opportunities in staff meetings for staff to feed back
- 3) seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors and visitors
- 4) monitoring the level of interest held by children
- 5) monitoring the influence collective worship has on the children as a whole
- 6) formal observations of collective worship

This will be formally reviewed by staff on a termly basis.

### **Evaluation**

The collective worship strategic planning group evaluate the effectiveness of collective worship by applying some or all of the above monitoring suggestions. Formal observations take place at least annually.

### **Review**

The head teacher, staff and governors will review the policy every three years. A worship planning and record sheet is kept to ensure that worship is compatible with the policy and to also inform our learning and our planning for the future.

### **Safety**

All activities in Collective Worship are carried out with due consideration for the children's safety at all times.