



ST CUTHBERT WITH ST MATTHIAS CE SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

MAY 2021

We take inspiration from our vision,

'As a school community we are inspired by the parable of the Good Samaritan from the Bible (Luke 10:25-37), where we are encouraged to love one another courageously and with compassion. Through friendship, kindness and thoughtfulness, we will nurture each other to learn and flourish as individuals.'

Loving one another. Learning for our future.

As a Church of England school we are deeply committed to developing and enhancing the talents and potential of each child by providing an ethos that reflects Christian values and which enables each child to develop spiritually.

AIMS

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- 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.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to attend the worship sessions each day.

In line with the underpinning foundation of a Christian school, we base our worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Anglican Christian Church. However, we conduct our worship assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

Our worship in our school is Christian, however we also make reference to other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community. We openly talk to children about them having choice in worship and that it is a time for reflection but they do not have to pray.

We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worship is a time of calm reflection and praise. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be respectfully quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate as fully as possible in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and from events of the Christian calendar, based on the LDBS worship calendar for each year. A member of the Clergy leads one worship session each week, as directed by the Diocese Worship calendar. Sometimes the themes of our worship assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. The Clergy worship assemblies are led by each class on a rota basis, with the children leading prayers, readings and the teachings. We often use drama and art as a way of engaging the pupils in the teachings.

Our Celebration worship assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Each class leads a Celebration Worship assembly each half term on a rota basis and share their RE learning and other learning from the half term. We encourage the children to participate by showing their work to the other



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children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. These worship assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

We invite the parents of the leading class to join our worship each Friday as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children. We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

We expect all children to attend worship. However, any parent can make written request for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

ORGANISATION

Monday	Whole School Worship led by Headteacher
Tuesday	Singing Worship KS2 led by Music Teacher and Headteacher/SLT member
Wednesday	Singing Worship KS1 led by Music Teacher and Headteacher/SLT member
Thursday	Clergy Worship led by Fr Paul, our Parish Priest and children from each class on a rota basis
Friday	Celebration Worship led by different classes on a rota basis

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of a named school governor and committee with responsibility for religious education and collective worship (Fr Paul and the PWCE committee) to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher and RE Coordinator before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.



Signed:  May 2021

Name of School: St Cuthbert with St Matthias CE Primary School

Policy Adopted Date: April 2021

Date of next Review: April 2023

Who reviewed this policy? Ratified by the PWCE committee