

## Collective Worship Statement May 2022



### 1. General Principle/Mission Statement

As a Church of England school, we welcome children with a full range of world views. Collective Worship at Sutton Courtenay plays an important part in the life of our school and aims to raise awareness of the spiritual, religious and moral aspects of life through acts of worship that are **inspirational, inclusive** and **invitational**. Christian worship is concerned with bringing praise, prayer, thanksgiving and adoration to God. Children and adults are invited to spend time in either worship or reflection that is meaningful to them. We invite all to be present with integrity.

Worship is an integral part of the school and offers the whole school community a range and variety of opportunities to experience of Christian worship, valued and honoured through the school's Anglican foundation which affirms every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, sex, ability, background or religion.

### 2. Legal Requirements

Our daily act of Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. This requires worship to be consistent with the faith, principles and practices of the Church of England.

We also take into account DfES legislation:

Worship will be

- appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils
- provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders
- in sympathy with cultures and beliefs represented in the school community

The following link will take you to the current legislation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collective-worship-in-schools>.

We recognise the right of withdrawal from Worship for pupils at the request of parents/carers and for staff, but currently enjoy the full support of the whole community. A quiet atmosphere and respect for the leader of collective worship is maintained at whole school assemblies. Class teachers are expected to promote to this.

The staff and governors at Sutton Courtenay are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will benefit from collective worship whatever his or her ability. Every attempt is made to ensure that the materials are used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interest.

Themes follow a yearly plan which is reviewed by the Local Governing Body.

### 3. Aims of Collective Worship

Collective worship makes an important contribution to the ethos and values of our school. Through worship we aim to:

- enhance the spiritual development and the response of pupils
- foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- create an atmosphere in which God is both normal and natural

- foster a reverential attitude to God
- foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways and activities
- explore and enjoy praise, prayer and the rituals of Christianity
- explore the Christian faith and the central Christian status of Jesus as the Son of God
- explore the Christian faith in the Trinity and explore the meaning of each person of the Trinity
- Enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian adherents
- Foster and value a search for a faith to live by
- Explore the schools Christian values to deepen pupils understanding of them and how they relate to the school, local community and wider world
- Learn about and reflect upon Christian teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community
- Worship together rather than apart
- provide an evocative setting for worship that fosters spiritual growth, reflection and response
- experience a broad spectrum of Christian tradition (various expressions of worship)
- inspire pupils to explore further their own faith and tradition
- encourage pupils and staff to plan, participate and lead worship
- develop a sense of community and shared values
- consider the needs of others and foster charitable works
- celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit
- celebrate achievement of members of the school in every aspect of school life
- make regular use of local church buildings for worship

Other opportunities that worship can offer are:

- celebrate the beliefs and cultures of others particularly those represented in our school
- celebrate the achievements of members of the school community reinforce school expectations, good behaviour and school routines
- share local school and community information

#### 4. **Management of Collective Worship**

The Local Governing Body has responsibility to ensure the Trust Deed of the school is honoured. The worship policy articulates its management and delivery. Parents/Carers are kept informed through the school newsletter/prospectus and website/media.

The Headteacher has responsibility for managing this area of the curriculum on a day-to-day basis, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with. This involves the production of a coherent programme for Collective Worship, which has continuity of Christian teaching and experience and such breadth and balance as is appropriate to the school community. Records of whole school worship are kept centrally. In addition all teachers in a Church School are Spiritual Leaders and have a responsibility to help pupils to develop spiritual awareness.

Monitoring is an on going process involving foundation governors and is carried out regularly through teacher observation, pupil feedback. Christian Distinctiveness is a separate strand on the School Development Plan and Ofsted Self Evaluation Form.

Here at Sutton Courtenay (CE) Primary School we evaluate the school's collective worship on the following:

- The extent to which adults and learners engage with collective worship, it's relevance and the way it makes a difference to the lives of members of the whole school community
- The extent to which collective worship is distinctively Christian, setting out the values of the school in their Christian context
- How well collective worship develops personal spirituality within the school community through a range of experiences, including a focus on prayer
- How well collective worship enables participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- How effectively the school community is involved in the planning, leadership and evaluation of collective worship

#### 5. **Implementation – Current Practice**

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and takes place in the hall or classrooms for approximately 15 minutes, although this may be lengthened or shortened when it is appropriate. In order for Collective Worship to be delivered effectively, careful preparation, good organisation and resources are all key necessary elements.

In addition:

- There are school worship occasions at All Saints Church or in school at Christmas, Easter and at other times during the school year.
- Reverence and calmness are essential elements of our time together and enable all participants to develop awareness of the purpose of this special time.
- Parents/Carers and Governors are invited to special events and class assemblies. Visitors and outside speakers are invited to join and enhance our worship.
- Each whole school act of worship begins with children coming into the hall quietly listening to music. The 'special' thinking candle is lit. The Lords Prayer is said regularly.
- No worship programme can ever be purely pre-planned and there will always be a spontaneous moment or occasion when it is important spiritually to focus on the immediate, so pupils are aware of how the spiritual dimension transcends all our experiences.

*This statement will be reviewed in May 2025.*