

**Through our Christian Values - Friendship, Compassion & Trust:  
We "Encourage, Build & Hope together...no one left behind." 1  
Thessalonians 5-11**

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**At our school we aim to develop each child fully - socially, physically, intellectually, morally and spiritually by fostering a caring inclusive community based on clear Christian values, in keeping with our status as a Voluntary Controlled Church of England School, which encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, which recognises and respects the beliefs and religions of others.**



## **Collective Worship Policy**

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord" **Psalm 150 v6**

"The act of collective worship can, and should be the best part of any school day. The joys and concerns of the school, and the world, should be allowed to permeate the worship, and this in turn should infect the whole of school life. An ideal, perhaps, but one worth trying to achieve."

**Sharon Swain: Christian Assemblies for Primary Schools**

Collective Worship is at the heart of Sproatley Church of England Primary Academy, and reflects the Christian Distinctiveness, Christian values and importance of SMSC to the school community. Worship is Anglian in character, and is conducted in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England. This is a legal requirement, in accordance with the school's trust deed. The ethos statement in the Instrument of Government for Sproatley Primary reflects its status as a Church of England school, and the importance of collective worship as a vital way in which the religious character of the school can be preserved and developed in accordance with that ethos statement. This ethos statement is in the Instrument of Government of each maintained Church of England school and can be found in the Appendix to this policy.

### **Aim**

Our aim through Worship is to make our children aware of what it means to be a Christian community committed to serving and caring for each other, God and our world. Worship is at the heart of the daily life of the school and the staff and Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' spiritual education.

### **Provision**

Collective Worship will:

- offer opportunities to worship God
- be inclusive and aim to respect each individual's integrity
- be clearly planned and appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of pupils
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church
- celebrate special occasions and seasons in the church's year and the life of the community
- develop a clear understanding of our core Christian Values of Friendship, Compassion & Trust.
- be the celebration of all that is good and beautiful, in an expression of thankfulness.
- be the sharing of what is meaningful and significant to our children and their beliefs, reflecting and learning from their own experiences and the experiences of others.
- give time to consider the beliefs and values of others, especially those within the school.

- be the experience of forms of worship which people find helpful in their spiritual development e.g. reflection, meditation, dance, singing, silence, including involvement in a rich variety of forms of expression e.g. drama, music and story.
- be the sharing of common concerns and responsibilities, focusing on our spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- give time for silent reflection and exploration.
- give affirmation of the equality of each individual in God's sight.

### **Guidelines**

- Collective Worship should have a sense of occasion. We prepare for this special time in the day. Children are encouraged to listen to music whilst waiting to begin Worship and candles are lit as a focus at different points during worship. Gather/Engage/Respond/Send
- Collective Worship is led by teachers, children, the Vicar, the registered parish assistant and by other visitors.
- Worship takes place in a variety of ways: prayer, reflection, song, story, drama, music, poetry etc. Sometimes it is quiet and contemplative and at other times it may be loud with laughter and joy.
- We have regular special celebrations at St Swithin's Church when families, friends and the Church Family are invited to join us.
- Children are given many opportunities for prayer. All our children are invited and not compelled to pray:
  - they are offered moments of silence during Collective Worship and also at the end of the day for their own prayer or reflection.
  - the Sproatley School Prayer is said collectively by each class on a daily basis.
  - they may write and share their own prayers which can be used in their classes.
  - we use well known prayers: The Lord's Prayer etc.

### **Resources**

Resources for Collective Worship are kept in the PPA room and in the Head's office. Additional web based worship ideas are used, particularly from the National Society. There is a budget given to Collective Worship each year.

### **Organisational Arrangements**

- Mrs G Pepper and the Pupil Church Group co-ordinate Collective Worship and Miss A Uney and the Pupil Church Group decide on the entrance/exit music and hymns to link in with the themes.
- Worship takes place every day, either first thing in the morning or before playtime:
  - Monday Whole School led by the Head Teacher.
  - Tuesday Whole School led by Miss A Uney
  - Wednesday or Whole School Praise led by a Class Teacher
  - Thursday Class Worship
  - Friday Celebration Collective Worship
- The children that are in our School Church Group are involved in the preparation for Collective Worship, particularly when there is a special festival to celebrate or when worship is in their classes. They work to produce and deliver worship and evaluate its effectiveness together with the adult Church group.
- Themes for the year are planned in broad outline, noting Christian Festivals and Seasons, School and other events. The Roots & Fruits publication is used to support the collective worship planning.
- Termly plans are organised into weekly blocks with details of themes and leaders. Suitable hymns and songs are linked with the theme and practised in Wednesday Praise. Linked Christian values and key Bible readings are identified on planning. Worship will always respond to events of international, national or local significance as they arise. Plans are available to parents and guardians on request.

- All staff lead acts of Collective Worship at Sproatley School. All children attend Worship unless their parents have exercised their right to withdraw them.

## **Responsibilities**

- Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of Collective Worship will include:
  - Day to day observation of children's attentiveness and level of interest
  - Specific monitoring of Collective Worship by the Adult Church Group.
  - Discussions with children (pupil voice).
  - SIAMS inspection, under section 48 of the Education Act.
  - Diocesan SLA visit support.
  - Regular monitoring and evaluation by the Headteacher and Foundation governors, in their legal responsibility to uphold the Christian ethos and foundation of the school, and the Anglican character of worship.

Next Review Date: January 2019

Appendices:

- i) Sproatley School Prayer.
- ii) Ethos Statement.
- iii) Instrument of Governance.
- iv) Anglican Character of Schools.