



**Through our Christian Values -  
Friendship, Compassion, Trust  
and Respect:**

**We Encourage, Build & Hope  
together...no one left behind.**

Based on 1 Thessalonians 5-11



## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **Rationale**

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values. As part of the Christian ethos of this school, our Christian vision is clear and underpins everything we do in school: "Encourage, Build and Hope together... no-one left behind" 1 Thessalonians 5-11. The values of friendship, compassion, trust and respect run through everything we do.

The school celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Therefore Collective Worship at Sproatley Academy is planned to:

- be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the schools core Christian values
- have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide
- challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection and Stillness
- contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to"
- be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

Collective worship should be invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

### **Legal Requirements**

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and foundation.

### **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.

Parents' contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

### **Inclusion and Equal Opportunities**

Collective Worship is inclusive. Please refer to Sproatley Academy Inclusion and Equal Opportunities policy.

### **Planning Collective Worship**

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by lighting a candle and asking children to reflect quietly. Participants are invited to take part in prayer and reflect quietly.

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' and 'sending'. There should also be space for evaluation. A worship-planning group meets once a term led by the worship co-ordinator. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last term's Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term. The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the School Council. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning, leading and monitoring of Collective Worship through the worship team.

Reverend Sue Pulko, one of the school's governors, has a role monitoring Collective Worship. There are a number of resources available to form the basis of collective worship planning including such as 'Roots and Fruits'. The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by the headteacher.

### **Our pattern of Collective Worship**

Whole School Worship is held twice a week. These are taken by the head, class teachers and visitors. Key Stage worship is held once a week. These are led by teachers and children. Class worship is held once a week. These are led by class teachers and children. Whole school celebration worship is held once a week on Fridays. These are led by the headteacher.

Visitors who have been invited to join us in Acts of Collective Worship include parents, governors and diocesan advisers. Acts of worship generally follow themes and Christian values that are linked to the school's vision and values and include the pattern of the church's year.

### **Visitors**

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.

### **Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship**

Certain named individuals, namely the leaders responsible for collective worship and the local clergy, are involved on a regular basis with the worship programme. Other staff and pupils are given the opportunity of being involved in this programme every term.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on a termly basis. All who deliver worship will be observed on a termly basis. This process supports the school's self-evaluation, is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body.

Pupils are also involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in weekly class worship, questionnaires and pupil conferences.

All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis.

These are shared during governing body meetings and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York (SIAMS).

Policy agreed by Board of Governors on Autumn Term 2022