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St Clement's CofE Primary School

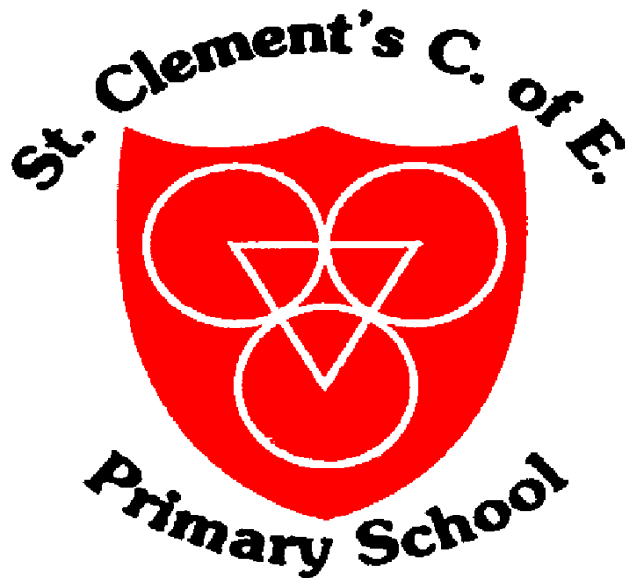
Collective Worship Policy

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Approved : Zoe Law

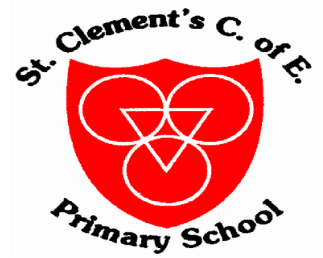
St Clement's C. of E. Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed by CR (RE Lead) &
Approved by JP (Head): February
2021

Due for review: February 2024



Growing Together **To Let Our Light Shine**

Mission Statement:

**We encourage and inspire children to aim high and challenge themselves in everything they do.
As a compassionate, Christian school, we are strong in our faith. We believe in love and forgiveness and are thankful for the opportunities we have to live and learn in our community.
(REVIEWED JULY 2019)**

Our Christian Values Reflected In **This Policy**

**Faith
Hope
Love
Respect
Thankfulness
Compassion
Forgiveness
(September 2017)**

DDA STATEMENT

At St. Clement's we will aim to:

- **Promote equality of opportunity between disabled people and others.**
- **Eliminate discrimination that is unlawful under the Act.**
- **Eliminate harassment of disabled pupils that is related to their disabilities.**
- **Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people.**
- **Encourage participation by disabled people in public life.**

- **Take account of a disabled person's disabilities, even when that involves treating a disabled person more favourably than another person.**

Collective Worship Policy *St Clements C of E Primary School*

Introduction

This policy has been prepared by the governors and Head Teacher with assistance from the teacher leading collective worship.

'Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.'

The right of withdrawal

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

If there are any children whose parents exercise their right to withdraw them from worship alternative activities will be provided in consultation with the children's parents. This does not mean that the children will be in any way exempt from the Christian ethos of the school which underpins the whole of school life. Parents are made fully aware of this when they enrol their children.

At St.Clement's C of E Primary School worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

At St.Clements' collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (*and other faiths*) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

Collective worship at St Clements' C of E Primary aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth using celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth.
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Reaffirm, strengthen and practise key Christian values including those central to our school (forgiveness, compassion, respect, thankfulness, kindness, trust/hope and faith all linked by the overarching theme of Love) and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God
- Seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well known Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.
- Embed our school Christian values further through links to our British Values and PSHCEE curriculum.

Worship/reflection areas

Each classroom will have a designated area where for reflection and worship which is both informative and interactive. The purpose of these areas is to

- enable the children to have times of reflection
- provide a focal point for class worship times
- encourage the children to be involved in its design and upkeep to show their understanding of the purpose of the area
- bring the Christian values in the classroom alive by encouraging the children to interact with the display
- encourage deeper questions from the children. The weekly Big Question will be used and displayed in this area.
- all worship and reflection areas will have key items such as a candle, cross, Christian symbols vocabulary and images, a Bible and other key stories, Lords' Prayer, a prayer or reflection box and writing materials for children to write their thoughts or prayers.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole school cycle of self review and this will be achieved over time by asking all stakeholders to reflect on school worship.

The governing body have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the Head teacher.

Monitoring

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the Head Teacher and the worship lead. Useful strategies for collecting the evidence will include:

- written observations; checking that practice matches planning
- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- holding regular discussions with colleagues
- gathering written comments from colleagues on the worship planning sheet

Evaluation

The information gathered via one or more of the strategies listed above will be analysed carefully in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the collective worship.

The worship lead, the Head Teacher and foundation governor(s), including the incumbent, will be the main evaluators. Formal evaluation of collective worship will take place at **least termly** as detailed in the RE and collective worship action plan.

Review

The Head Teacher, governors and staff will review this policy every three years. A worship planning and record sheet is kept weekly to ensure that acts of worship are generally compatible with the requirements of the policy and to inform our learning and planning for further developments. These will regularly include any formal and informal evaluations of acts of collective worship which will assist monitoring, future planning and delivery. Visitors outside the school community who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of the collective worship policy.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

A daily act of collective worship is held for all children regardless of their background of culture or religion. Every effort is made by the school to involve all children unless withdrawn by their parents in accordance with the law.

Responsibilities

It is the ultimate responsibility of the head and governing body of a school to ensure a daily act of collective worship takes place. At St Clements C of E Primary School the responsibility to co-ordinate the acts of worship is delegated to the collective worship co-ordinator. She/he plans themes, invites and liaises with visiting speakers and keeps a record of the content of each act of collective worship. Monitoring and evaluation is the responsibility of the worship co-ordinator, the head teacher and foundation governor(s), including the incumbent. Individual class teachers are responsible for planning and evaluating their own weekly class Values worship.

Conclusion

At St Clements C of E Primary School, collective worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take an active part in a high quality daily act of collective worship. Worship may contain many elements but at St Clements C of E Primary School we seek to specifically ensure that the act of collective worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter.

Signature and date

Policy last reviewed: February 2021

Next review date: February 2024

Worship Lead: Mrs Caroline Rodgers

Governors responsible for collective worship: Ms J Skelton & Mr D Mullaney

APPENDIX **PUTTING THE SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY INTO ACTION**

Code of practice **Organisation, Content & Structure**

The whole school including members of staff, meet together daily in the hall each morning except Tuesday when the class teachers conduct worship in their own rooms. Worship usually lasts approximately 25 minutes, but the length of collective worship may vary. Various people assist the head in conducting whole school worship. Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to collective worship. Clergy of the parish are frequently invited, as are members of charitable organisations, to offer their expertise to the school. On major festivals (e.g. Easter, Christmas), collective worship is held in St Clements church. Where children are withdrawn from collective worship alternative activities are provided.

The following ongoing daily pattern is generally followed;

Mondays 10.10am- Head Teacher, Assistant Head Teacher, Worship Lead or Class Teachers on a rota

Tuesdays -Worship in classrooms

Wednesdays 10.10am- Vicar leads the collective worship.

Thursdays 10.10am- Visitor

Fridays 9.00am- Rewards led by the Head Teacher, Assistant Heads or Phase Leaders

Content

Our long term plan of worship identifies the Christian values of the school to be expressed and celebrated through collective worship. Every half term, the CW

lead will provide staff with a bank of resources and plans linked to a school Christian Value- e.g. compassion, forgiveness, love. This will include information on key Bible readings and stories and explicit links will be made between these and the school Christian values. Staff leading worship can use these resources to plan as they wish around weekly themes. Alongside this, a bank of Big Questions will be provided which can be explored and discussed in classes and shared during whole school worship. High quality collective worship plans from our PSHCEE scheme (Heartsmart) will be used weekly. These plans have been written for church schools. Themes from the curriculum will be closely linked to our school Christian values and will use teaching from the Bible and Jesus as a focal point. New/Supply staff are briefed as necessary by the worship lead. Any plans relating to worship are kept fully up to date. These plans are kept over time to avoid repetition of stories and other elements of worship, whilst ensuring a breadth of approach is used. A planning proforma will be used across the school. The worship planning document will provide space for leaders of worship to place information regarding the learning that will take place, response, reflection and evaluation of worship.

Outlined below are the themes for worship throughout the school year

AUTUMN 1 CHRISTIAN VALUES: THANKFULNESS & LOVE (Harvest)

AUTUMN 1 HEARTSMART THEME: Get Heart Smart

AUTUMN 2 CHRISTIAN VALUES: RESPECT & LOVE (Advent and Christmas)

AUTUMN 2 HEARTSMART THEME: Don't Forget To Let Love In

SPRING 1 CHRISTIAN VALUES: COMPASSION & LOVE

SPRING 1 HEARTSMART THEME: Too Much Selfie Isn't Healthy

SPRING 2 CHRISTIAN VALUES: FORGIVENESS & LOVE (Lent and Easter)

SPRING 2 HEARTSMART THEME: Don't Rub it in, Rub it out!

SUMMER 1 CHRISTIAN VALUES: FAITH & LOVE (Pentecost)

SUMMER 1 HEARTSMART THEME: Fake is a Mistake

SUMMER 2 CHRISTIAN VALUES: HOPE & LOVE

SUMMER 2 HEARTSMART THEME: 'No Way Through' Isn't True

Music is played as the children enter and leave the hall. It may be modern or classical and is drawn from various cultures.

The children sing songs in assembly which are connected to the weekly themes. Music and songs are chosen by the Worship Lead and other staff and show the wide range of ways in which music is used as part of religious and secular celebration and praise.

A candle is lit at the start of worship.

The content of the worship can include use of stories, poems, drama, songs, visual aids, prayers, moments of reflective silence, OHP, focal points, interactive activities for the children, slides or video presentations, and consideration of work undertaken in the school curriculum

It should be noted that an 'assembly' is not an 'act of collective worship' but a gathering of the school for other purposes, e.g. notices, achievement book, behaviour chats etc.

Each act of collective worship will include more than one of the following elements:

- o *celebration of the major festivals of Christianity and of other faiths;*
 - o *presentation of Bible stories;*
 - o *topical matters from the news or the locality;*
using literature with implicit or explicit religious teaching;
 - o *appreciation of the natural world and human activity;*
 - o *appreciation of the talents, achievements and work of ourselves and others;*
 - o *visitors who represent organisations who have a brief acceptable to the school;*
 - o *prayer in different forms - formal, children's own, silence and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others and quiet reflection;*
 - o *use of music (this will include CDs as an introduction and conclusion, singing and instrumental playing by members of the school), drama etc.;*
 - o *use of appropriate artefacts and focal points (candle, cross, flowers etc.)*
 - o *participation by the children;*
 - o *using collects, responses, hymns and psalms as a focus for short acts of worship.*
- (Adapted from the Carlisle Diocesan Collective Worship Guidelines)*

Resources

The school budget includes a cost centre to be used annually for resourcing collective worship and the teaching of RE. Visual aids (artefacts, posters and books) are purchased regularly and are catalogued and stored in the nurture room. Each staff member has a copy of the list of resources.

Visitors

Each visitor is personally communicated with by the collective worship lead. They are briefed on school policy and the aims for collective worship. Themes are discussed and suggestions made as to the content of each act of collective worship. Should any problems occur with an act of collective worship the head undertakes to deal with these in liaison with the worship lead. A personal letter of thanks is sent at the end of each term.