



# SOUTH DARLEY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

<b>Person/Committee responsible for reviewing/updating this plan</b>	Foundation Governor, Collective Worship Lead and Headteacher
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26.09.2016	FGB26092016.17.2	A Jordan	
12.10.2020	VFGB12102020.27.8	P Wilde J Gill M Wilson	

## **Policy Statement**

At South Darley Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral part of school life.

As a Church of England Primary School our collective worship will be in accordance with the principles and practises of the Anglican Church. The daily act of collective worship has a special status and is distinct from R.E.

It is a time when we come to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate our mission statement and the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, clergy and other visitors are valued highly. We are proud of our local ecumenical links and welcome the way that visitors from other denominations enrich our worship.

Collective worship is also a time for encouraging our pupils to think about their place in the world, through Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. We acknowledge and embrace our responsibilities in enabling children to think deeply about themselves, the world in which they live and the place that faith has in our society.

We value and are committed to maintaining the mutually supportive relationship we enjoy with the congregation of St Mary's Church, and their vicar, which is vital to our collective worship provision.

## **Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

## **Values for Life**

Our collective worship is shaped by the 'Values for Life' materials, published by the Diocese of Gloucester and providing ideas and resources for worship in primary schools based on eighteen values that should be at the heart of our community. These values, each of which is our focus for a term on a three year rolling programme, include: courage, creativity, peace, trust, compassion, friendship, humility, service and wisdom.

The values are all embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave:

"...love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples".

John 13:34-35

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

Information about our value for each term is displayed in the staffroom and features in the school newsletter.

## **Patterns of worship**

We usually place our collective worship at the beginning of the school day as it is the starting point for everything else we do. We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current pattern is as follows:

- Monday: Whole school worship led by the Headteacher, taking a 'current affairs' or SMSC viewpoint on our Value for the term;
- Tuesday: Whole school worship usually lead by the teachers on a rota basis, using the Values for Life resources. When the third Tuesday of the month falls within term time this is replaced with a 'family service' in church, led by Rev Stephen Monk with all members of the church and school communities invited;
- Wednesday: Class worship using the BBC 'Treasure Champs' (Infant) or Class Dojo 'Positive Thinning' (Junior) programmes, often providing opportunity to hear the views of children from other faiths;
- Thursday: Whole school worship lead by a member of the clergy or other visitor;
- Friday: Celebration assembly lead by the Headteacher. (If the first Friday of the month falls within term time then this takes place in church with parents invited.)

The children enter whole school worship listening to our 'music of the week' which is taken from a variety of different cultures and styles.

A cross is displayed in our collective worship area and this and a candle on the collective worship table provide a visual focus as the children enter. The table is covered with a cloth to match the colour of the liturgical season and information about the season is often displayed.

The worship lasts approximately 15 minutes.

All members of the school staff are welcome to attend collective worship at any time. It should not be a time when children are routinely withdrawn for other lessons or support.

Regular prayers at other times of the day include a grace before lunch and an opportunity for reflection before the children go home.

## **Values Team**

Each year a group of our Year 5/6 children volunteer to become part of our 'Values Team', preparing and leading collective worship within our own school, other local schools and churches in the parish.

These children also open our daily worship with simple responsive liturgy. They sometimes lead the prayers at the conclusion of our worship.

## **Planning and Evaluation**

The collective worship co-ordinator liaises with other school staff about 'Values for Life' materials for the following term. They also meet regularly with the vicar and other members of the church to plan worship and music.

Collective worship is regularly evaluated by children using a set of questions available in the collective worship area. Our foundation governors regularly attend worship and periodically complete a formal evaluation, including discussion with children. The Values Team take part in a discussion on their views of collective worship with the vicar at the end of the school year. All of these views are taken into account in the planning and organising of future collective worship.