

# Collective Worship Policy



**St Philip's CE**  
**PRIMARY SCHOOL**

|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Lead</b>               | Emma Cooper      |
| <b>Head</b>               | Sandie Edward    |
| <b>Chair of Governors</b> | Jeremy Hooper    |
| <b>Policy amended</b>     | Jan 2024         |
| <b>To be reviewed</b>     | Jan 2027         |
| <b>Vicar</b>              | Rev. Rachel Bray |

## **INTRODUCTION**

This policy reflects the spirit of our school's **Vision and Mission statement**- Christ in everything we do.

**Vision and Values Statements** summarised as:

- Happiness, love and security abound
- Everyone is special
- Every achievement is celebrated
- Relationships and teamwork matter
- A beacon of light in the community

As a staff we are committed to providing rich and exciting learning experiences within an emotionally literate environment, which engage, challenge and meet the needs of **all** children, building their self esteem and so increasing their motivation to learn.

### **What is Collective Worship at St Philips?**

At St Philip's we gather together daily as a school family to share in an act of collective worship. We endeavour to set our worship in a warm, caring and positive atmosphere reflecting the strong Christian ethos of our school. It is a very special time, valued by both children and staff.

In our collective worship we affirm and celebrate our **shared Christian values** and beliefs as well as recognising the **specialness of key multi-faith festivals**.

These Christian values are inspired by role models of faith- including the character and life of Jesus- who we want the children to aspire to follow as they grow and develop in their own faith and beliefs.

Our worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring. We aim to 'Nourish those with faith, encourage those of other faiths and challenge those with no faith'. Our aim is for worship to have an impact beyond the classroom and encourage all children to 'Live life in all its fullness' and give them a sense of hope for the future. We follow a recognisable structure and as a Church of England school base our collective worship on Anglican traditions and identity.

We acknowledge the uniqueness of the individual, celebrate diversity, create a sense of shared values and of our common humanity within school, society and the wider world.

We aim to foster the spiritual, emotional, moral, social and cultural development of all those present, allowing individuals to reflect and respond freely and encouraging them to develop their own beliefs and faith.

## Policy Development

This policy was developed through a process of consultation with teaching staff, governors, the church and diocese.

It is based on agreed good practice and is in line with the 1988 Education Reform Act. (As seen in the Sefton Collective Worship Document Section (i).

## Aims of our collective worship

- To help children to understand and develop empathy and care, tolerance and love for one another.
- To encourage an understanding of the Anglican tradition within the broader context of world-wide Christianity.
- To develop an understanding of, and a tolerance for, the beliefs of others through opportunities to explore a variety of faiths and their practices.
- To foster a sense of community and encourage a sense of responsibility towards other people and the environment.
- To enable them to reflect on their role as citizens of their local community, as well as global citizens.
- To allow children the opportunity for participation in a shared experience.
- To encourage attitudes of sensitivity and awe to the wonders and mysteries of the world.

## Entitlement

**All** children, whatever their race, gender, faith, age or ability, are **fully included** in our worship times.

Within the worship experience, books, materials and activities will be monitored to ensure that there is no race, faith or gender stereotyping within them.

**All parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship.**

## Organisation and delivery of collective worship

At St Philip's we have a daily act of collective worship for **all** the children. This is of fifteen minutes' duration.

**Staff members** attend and lead each collective worship time on a rota basis.

**Whole school worship** takes place at least three times a week:

**Monday:** Class worship- Picture News/ No outsiders

**Tuesday:** Headteacher or Deputy Head

**Wednesday:** Southport Schools Work Trust/ local clergy

**Thursday:** is either Class worship OR whole school worship  
Children will work in groups to prepare and lead worship within their classes.  
Parents will be invited in.

- Teacher will lead worship in the classroom on a given theme/ person / Bible story /PSCHE link
- Picture news

**Friday: Celebration worship-** Certificates, medals, Spotted (Christian values in action) and other out of school awards are shared.

All children take part in class Christmas celebrations when the joyful message of the season is shared with parents and governors.

In addition to the above we have services led by **visitors and speakers**, for example, The local Baptist Church, Christian Fellowship, speakers from other charitable organisations, other local faith leaders and speakers representing other faiths, cultures and religions.

The whole school and staff attend **church** to worship together with parents and friends and celebrate the major **Christian** festivals throughout the year. These special services are led by the children and the talk is given by a clergy member or a special visitor.

At the end of each term, we give thanks to God with an open Church Service, thanking God for all of the opportunities we have benefited from and making resolutions about the coming term.

### Variety of Delivery

We believe it is important that our act of worship has a **positive and celebratory atmosphere**. We try to ensure that this special time has a sense of peace and joy. This is created by appropriate music upon entering and leaving the hall. A lit candle and cross are placed on our **Reflection Table** as a focus for worship. We ensure that Christian Liturgy is central to our Worship with set openings and dismissals, known prayers, a child friendly version of the Lords Prayer at each Worship, reference to Bible verses and responses with which the children are familiar. Our children are becoming more familiar with the concept of the Holy Trinity and we refer to The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit in a way in which the children understand.

### Themes

Themes are developed to ensure a **rich and stimulating** termly worship programme. They are planned to allow for the major Christian festivals and also to enhance and develop them. Key festivals from other faiths are listed and built into our themes as appropriate. They link to a wide range of available worship resources including "**Values for Life**". Children testify to enjoying the variety of delivery, styles, visitors and songs which we share. They particularly enjoy interactive worship times including role play and prayers.

At St Philip's, we feel it is important to allow for flexibility and spontaneity and that there will always be a need to respond to events affecting our school and

national community. Also, visitors leading collective worship may not wish to follow the set theme but to set their own.

Reflections on our worship times are written in the Golden Worship book- this is passed between Years 5 and 6 for children to write their thoughts and reflections in. Worship songs used are recorded in a book for reporting to CCLI and to avoid repetition. Individual classes will record their own responses to worship in their class reflection books- these will also be used in R.E and PSCH lessons.

### British Values

Our school core Christian values of courage, forgiveness, friendship, wisdom and trust ensure that British Values are implicit and embedded in all that we do. This is part of our long-term plan to prepare our children for living in modern Britain where we value every individual person whether child or adult. We actively promote equality and diversity. It also means that we will promote through discussion, respect for democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths. Evidence for this will come from work in classes as well as the various school councils. We will challenge opinions or behaviours in anyone who does not uphold these values.

### Role of Subject Leader

The role of the subject leader is as outlined in the post-holder's job description, but it is essentially to work alongside staff and the link governor to plan, implement, monitor, review and support the delivery of high-quality collective worship. The subject leader monitors the standards of collective worship by observation and through pupil interviews and he/she also monitors coverage by using the Golden book and class reflection books. Pupils and staff responses (via questionnaires and audits) are also crucial in the celebration of good practice and for action planning.

### Resources include:

- A rich selection of collective worship books.
- Suitable music for the various themes.
- Appropriate pictures and photographs.
- Suitable artefacts for each theme will be used as appropriate.
- A Focus table in each classroom
- Central Table in the hall.

### Staff Development

The RE subject leader and staff identify resource needs and training opportunities to enrich collective worship, by developing staff skills and competencies, through appropriate courses and/or staff development time.

#### Policy Review

This Worship Policy is carefully monitored and reviewed systematically by the subject leader, in liaison with the link governor, as detailed previously. A full review of the policy is built into a two-year cycle.

