



## Shinfield St Mary's C of E Junior School

### Collective Worship Policy

#### Our Vision

Jesus said 'As I have loved you, so you must love one another.' John 13, 34

This commandment guides us all to love and value all members of the school community. Children and adults from all backgrounds will thrive in the belief that diversity is to be celebrated and respected. As well as loving those who are present in our lives they will interact in the world in ways that reflect their responsibilities as global citizens and custodians of our planet. Our children will make an impact in the wider world which will benefit future generations

Love is Patient

Love is Kind

Love is Honest

It trusts, hopes, perseveres and protects.

#### Document History:

Version	Issue Date	Comments
1.0	February 2012	
	February 2014	
	May 2016	
	May 2018	Updates focus on the inclusion of our values as main drivers
	Sept 20	Quote from John
	September 2022	Added Vision, removed Covid arrangements
	September 2024	

**Next Review September 2026**

This Policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's vision, values and Christian ethos. It supports and reinforces the aims of our School, valuing all children equally and the individual gifts they and all other members of our community bring to school life at Shinfield St Mary's.

The ethos of the school, encompassing all that we stand for, is reflected in and expressed through Collective Worship; it derives from the Christian tradition and seeks to activate our beliefs and values which are clearly set out in the School's vision.

Collective Worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school. It is an oasis in the school day when children meet together with members of staff in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is regarded as 'quality' time and represents something special or separate from ordinary school routine.

### **Aims and purpose**

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to explore, through experience, models of worship

### **Collective worship**

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly. We explain to children of all faiths and of no faith that to say 'amen' at the end of a prayer or reflection is to agree with the sentiments that have been expressed in the prayer or reflection.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Church of England. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

### **Organisation of collective worship**

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. Normally this is a whole-school assembly, although occasionally we may hold separate Lower Junior and Upper Junior assemblies.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention

of the children. In every whole school or year group assembly, we light a candle to represent Christ as the light of the world,

The headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct the assemblies but we welcome local clergy and other representatives of local religious groups to lead them on a regular basis

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. Our shared values are always identified and addressed at this time. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes in advance of the day they take place.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the main drivers of the school, which are our specified values:

- Love
- Kindness
- Trust
- Hope
- Perseverance
- Patience

We invite parents to important assemblies; especially class assemblies as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

### **Right of withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will, wherever possible, make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

### **Monitoring and review**

It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

### **Visitors**

We extend a warm welcome to all visitors and invite them to participate in our assemblies. We expect that they will respect and uphold our Vision, Values and School Ethos and will read and adhere to the safeguarding arrangements of the school.