

# Middlefirth C of E Primary School



## **Collective Worship Policy**

Date of Policy: March 2020

Review Date: March 2022

**Mission Statement**  
**“Let your light shine”**  
Matthew 5:16

**We seek to promote:**  
**Faith**  
**Resilience**  
**Independence**  
**Curiosity**  
**Communication**  
**Aspiration**

At Middleforth Church of England Primary School worship is at the heart of daily life. All acts of worship will be in accordance with the traditions of the Church of England.

**Aims of Collective worship**

Our aim is that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These would include:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- The importance of prayer;
- The central symbols of Christianity;
- The cycle of the Church year

Worship at Middleforth Church of England Primary gives the whole school community the opportunity to praise and give thanks to God together and to share quiet moments of reflection in a busy school day giving expression to the living relationship that exists between God and our whole school community.

## **Organisation and Delivery**

At Middleforth Church of England Primary School Worship is at the heart of daily life. All acts of worship will be in accordance with the traditions of the Church of England. Daily Collective Worship is provided for every pupil. This Worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, classes, key stages or mixed ages, but not in faith groups. Worship usually takes place in the morning. The style of worship is adapted in line with our commitment to innovative and child-led worship, as outlined on the termly worship overviews.

In addition to the above timetabled Collective Worship, the school regularly lead services in Church. Such events will include recognition of key dates in the Church's Calendar to mark events such as:

- Holy week
- All Saints
- Ash Wednesday
- Harvest
- Advent
- Christmas
- Epiphany
- Pentecost

These Church services will be led by the children allowing them to share their thoughts and reflections with the wider community.

Services may also be held throughout the year as "Church in School" held on a Sunday on the school premises. This act of Worship will be planned in collaboration with the Headteacher, Worship Co-ordinator and Reverend Mansfield. All members of the local community will be invited to attend this Act of Worship with children from the school, children from local community non-uniformed groups such as Beavers Group, Cubs and Brownies, supported by Reverend Mansfield taking the lead.

At times, invited guests from different organisations and local churches may lead or support Collective Worship in school.

A Worship Table provides the focus for our time together and a Sacred Space. A Bible, Cross and Candles can be found on the table. In order to promote an awareness of the different times and seasons in the Church Calendar, coloured bunting in liturgical colours, will be hung around the worship table to reflect this.

When worshipping together children enter the hall to appropriate music, depending on the theme and Worship Leader. Sometimes children enter joining in with a song, such as, Here I am to worship. At other times, quiet music is played to encourage children to adopt a reflective demeanour in preparation for Worship. Children, adults and visitors are welcomed to worship by a team of Worship Welcomers made up of members of the schools Christian Ethos committee.

Collective Worship begins with a warm welcome and greeting, three candles are lit by a child to signify the Trinity. The children are reminded that by lighting the candles we are inviting Jesus to be with us. The children are reminded that the three candles represent the Trinity (God the

Father, Son and Holy Spirit). Words are said beginning with 'We light 3 candles in the name of ...' or may be sung.

This will be followed by readings, stories, drama, Powerpoint presentations or other stimuli from a variety of sources. Whatever format is chosen, the content of the Worship will always make reference to the Christian faith, teaching of Jesus, bible stories etc. In order to embed 'Understanding Christianity' reference to 'The BIG story' using the display on the wall as a timeline will be referred to where appropriate. This will help children to see the bigger picture and put events in correct chronological order.

Prayer is a significant part of our worship. These may take on different forms, such as the use of a class prayer, a prayer written by a member of the school community taken from the prayer wall or with children / staff / visitors being invited to say their own prayers. The Lord's Prayer is often used in Worship along with other types of prayer depending on the time of year and the focus for the act of Worship.

The worship will end with the special words: "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord" with the children replying and signing, 'and let your light shine', a reminder of our school mission statement and that we should live this out in all we think, say and do.

A child is chosen to blow out the candle and this signifies the end of the act of worship.

### **Content and Approaches**

At the heart of our school are a set of core Christian values which reflect the schools Christian ethos of, 'Let your light shine', and are linked to the Fundamental British Values detailed in the document 'Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools' (DfE Nov. 2014). These values underpin all aspects of our curriculum and school life. These values form the basis of our themes for each term and are set out as follows:

Autumn A	:	Respect
Autumn B	:	Love
Spring A	:	Courage
Spring B	:	Forgiveness
Summer A	:	Hope
Summer B	:	Friendship

Although there are themes for each term during the school year, the Church year will also be observed. Although weekly Worship is planned, we respect and allow the need for spontaneity. We encourage a varied and creative approach to delivering Collective Worship.

Below are just some examples of approaches to Worship which may be used:

- Adult / Pupil led
- Guest speakers
- Storytelling using story bags
- Outdoor worship
- Worship Workshops
- Music
- Role play

- Puppets

### **Consultation, Management, Recording and Review**

The Headteacher is responsible for overseeing the content and quality of Collective Worship and will be supported by the Incumbent and Chair of Governors. It is expected that other key members of staff and children will also contribute to content and delivery of the Collective Worship planned programme.

The RE Subject Lead is currently working closely with the Headteacher and Incumbent in the role of Collective Worship Co-Ordinator. In order to fulfil her role the Co-Ordinator will be given access to training from the Diocese and other relevant sources. Where appropriate, training opportunities will also be made available for staff and governors.

Records of Collective Worship will be retained by the Headteacher. The Head Teacher will be responsible alongside Reverend Mansfield and the Chair of Governors for the evaluation of school worship. All staff and children in school are invited to evaluate worship on a termly basis giving feedback to the Collective Worship Co-ordinator.

The incumbent and Chair of Governors will report on the quality of Collective Worship to the Governing Body at least once a year.

### **Resources**

The school's main resource is the Parish church, St. Leonards Penwortham and the valuable input Reverend Mansfield gives. Within school, Collective Worship resources are reviewed annually and a suitable budget set aside. A variety of resource materials are available.

It is the responsibility of the Collective Worship Co-Ordinator to assess and review the maintenance and suitability of resources and report her findings to the Headteacher.

### **The legal requirements for Collective worship**

Collective Worship in Church Schools is governed by both the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts as well as by the Trust Deed of the School. The Collective Worship provided by the school must be in accordance with the Trust Deed, or in accordance with the tradition before we became a Controlled school.

Daily Collective Worship has to be provided for every pupil. This worship may take place in various groupings and may take place at any time during the school day.

The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community.

### **Parental rights of withdrawal**

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship as outlined in the School prospectus and Church of England syllabus for schools, which states:

*“The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England (Methodist) Foundation. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England / Methodist ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.”*

Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and Religious Education cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school.

### **Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship**

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Headteacher, in consultation with the Chair of Governors and where appropriate supported by Reverend Mansfield, and possibly with advice from the Diocese or District. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.

Throughout all acts of worship children at Middleforth will be encouraged to always live out our school mission statement in all they think, say and do.

*“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5.16*

### **Review of Policy**

This policy will be reviewed on a two-year rolling cycle by the Governing Body and Head Teacher.