

# St Agnes C.E. Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

**Approved by:** Finance and Resources Committee      **Date:** October 2024

**Last reviewed on:** June 2023

**Next review due by:** October 2025

*Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion,*

Article 14; UNCRC

*Under the Education Act 1996, all maintained schools must provide daily collective worship for all registered pupils.*

### **Organisation of Collective Worship.**

The Staff and Governors of St Agnes' Church of England Primary School place Collective Worship at the centre of the school's daily life. It is a time when we come together to share Christian values and experiences of our everyday lives, to develop the spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding of our pupils.

Worship is organised on a whole school basis and is led by different members of the teaching staff, visiting church minister, outside speakers and also the pupils in school. This enables us to provide an exciting and varied approach towards our collective worship and greatly enhances the schools Christian character.

The whole school attends Church at least once during the academic year to reinforce our Church foundation.

The RE and Collective Worship lead produces an action plan for collective worship, which include the themes to be developed, the visiting speakers, the focus quality for the term as well as other practical elements such as the members of staff responsible for Collective Worship.

The weekly Collective Worship timetable is usually organised as follows:

	<b>Main feature of worship</b>	<b>Led by:</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Encounter with God/Class reflections	Staff/pupils
<b>Tuesday</b>	Encounter with God/Class reflections	Staff/pupils
<b>Wednesday</b>	Encounter with God/Class reflections	Staff/pupils
<b>Thursday</b>	Encounter with God/Class reflections	Staff/pupils
<b>Friday</b>	Encounter with God/Class reflections	Staff/pupils
	Celebration assembly:	Head teacher or Deputy Head; Phase leads
<b>Assemblies</b>	Reflecting on the weeks' events, achievements, extra-curricular activities and club performances, prayer, song Phase assemblies - Infant and Junior Encounter with God/Class reflections	Head teacher or Deputy Head; Phase leads Visitors; Vicar

### **The Nature of Collective Worship at our School**

#### **Reflection:**

Collective Worship at our school is a time when staff and children meet together and have the opportunity to reflect on the non-material dimensions of our lives together in the school community and as individuals. Every class has a Collective worship/area designated for reflection to post personal prayers and share with the class if so. Once a week, children have the opportunity to engage in an 'Encounter with God' session, where they can develop their own spirituality, such as writing a letter to God, telling God how good he is or praying for someone else. The termly focus of one of the distinctive Christian qualities forms the basis of prayers i.e. Justice, Friendship etc. It is here that children can see 'faith in action'. In each classroom, children place a marble in a jar as a symbol of their time of reflection.

LOVE TO LEARN • LEARN TO DO WELL • LIVE WELL TOGETHER

**Celebration & Achievement:**

Worship takes place through a variety of media such as Bible teaching, stories, songs, poetry, drama etc. Class led worship is often used as an opportunity to share experiences and achievements with the whole-school community and with parents and friends.

**Family Community:**

Through our Daily Worship we aim to bring an awareness of what it means to be part of a community, which cares for each other, for God and for the environment. In so doing we hope that pupils will develop the ability to explore issues for themselves, be able to reflect upon and learn from experiences and develop a sense of awe and wonder about the wider world whilst understanding their role and responsibilities to their local community.

**Equal Opportunities:**

Staff and Governors are committed to ensuring that opportunities for worship are relevant to all pupils and pay due regard to their ages, abilities and interests. We aim to recognise the equality of each child in God's sight, whatever the child's gender, race, physical or mental ability. Pupils currently take part in collective worship and often lead worship however each parent has the right to withdraw their child for religious reasons.

**Special Education Needs:**

Staff and Governors attempt to ensure that materials and subject matter used in collective worship are appropriate for the range of abilities of all pupils in school.

**Planning:**

Collective Worship includes several features and is planned for in the annual calendar with key dates:

- Biblical theme
- Prayer
- Visitors from St Agnes' Church - vicar
- Visitors from other churches
- Diocesan representatives - Bishop
- Charity focus
- School initiative e.g. Eco, Fair trade initiatives
- Healthy Clubs promotion developing God given gifts and talents
- Friday award celebration and performances with parents
- Visit to St Agnes' Church to celebrate main Christian festivals
- Pupil led prayers and interactive pupil prayer display
- Highlights of the half term and pupil led praise / thankfulness at the end of the half term.

**Monitoring and Evaluation.**

Strategies staff currently use for assessing the outcomes of collective worship include:

- observation of children's reaction and participation during worship
- feedback from children in class - written or verbal
- parents' comments
- link visits by Foundation Governors
- observations of the quality of worship by the Head teacher, Deputy Headteacher and/or Collective Worship lead.