



God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth. John 4:24

## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **Aims and Purposes**

- To inspire and engage all in worship;
- To include everyone in meaningful worship;
- To provide an opportunity for personal reflection;
- To explore scripture and make links between ancient sacred texts and current everyday life;
- To understand, question and learn about Christian traditions and festivals;
- To know about the life of Jesus Christ and the lessons His life has for us all;
- To explore The Holy Trinity and how the Father, Son and Holy Ghost can guide us;
- To encourage worshippers to take responsibility for their own actions in God's world;
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- To promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- To teach children how to worship in a variety of way.

### **Collective Worship at St Chad's**

Worship is a special act or occasion with the purpose of showing reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', acts of collective worship at St Chad's are based around the Christian values.

We do, however, conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school and the wider community. While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in school and the wider community.

### **Organisation of Collective Worship**

As devised by St Chad's School Prayer Group, worship will include: Theme, Stimulus, Reflection, Hymn or Song and Prayer.

**Monday:** Whole School collective worship.

**Tuesday:** British Values and SMSC.

**Wednesday:** Key Stage Collective Worship. Celebration of achievements. Gold Award certificates awarded to recognise children displaying core Christian values.

**Thursday:** Collective worship and singing assembly.

**Friday:** Whole school collective worship. Lead by clergy, staff or children.

We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful manner. Collective worship is regarded as a special time. Participants are expected to be respectful and are encouraged to be reflective. An appropriate atmosphere is created, using music, dance, candles or other objects. Many different members of school staff, children, Clergy and local, or wider, community members may lead assembly. We take the themes of worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar.

Sometimes the themes of acts of worship are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum or from interests and questions raised by children in school. Collective worship plays an important role in promoting the ethos of the school, where all children are valued and respected and all achievements are recognised. Several times a year we hold special acts of worship to which parents and members of the wider community are invited. Many of these are held at St Chad's Parish Church. Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

### **Right of Withdrawal**

We expect all children to participate in acts of worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship. The school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the excused child where necessary. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Head of School keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

## **Monitoring and Review**

Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of the school governors, who are responsible for religious education. The governors liaise with the Head of School. This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.

**Signed :** *Frankie Marsh*

**Date :** Summer 2018