



‘Soar on wings like eagles,  
Run and not grow weary,  
Walk and not be faint’ Isaiah 40:31

## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **Rationale**

We endeavour to create a Christian environment of care and commitment, to promote a love of learning, to celebrate all achievements and build self-confidence in order to enable each individual to fulfil their potential through skills, knowledge and care.

Our aims and ethos are central to the planning, delivery and evaluation of our acts of collective worship.

Because we aim for acts of worship to be inclusive of all pupils there is an expectation that all pupils will be present. Careful planning and preparation ensure that there are clear learning intentions for pupils. Collective worship is first and foremost for the spiritual life and growth of the school community rooted in the grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ. It is a shared activity that allows for a variety of responses, and provides an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on stimuli which allow the human spirit to respond with integrity. The school is committed to respect the integrity of all the religious and non-religious communities from which pupils come.

The school will also offer the opportunity to explore, reflect upon and respond to the mystery and meaning of the Christian faith.

### **Aims of Collective Worship**

At Coombe Bissett School Collective Worship aims to:

- Strengthen and support the school community and celebrate each unique individual member made in the image of God.
- Give expression to, reaffirm and practise the values of the school community.
- Allow reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings.
- Experience a variety of forms of reflection. These might include: prayer, praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others, and quiet reflection.
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others – a recognition of the vulnerability of self and others.
- Provide members of the school community with the invitational opportunity to:

- Praise and reach out to God in prayer
- Experience stillness and quiet
- Begin to understand the Grace of God
- Experience Christian love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ
- Respond to Christian language and symbolism.
- Help pupils begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship and to provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

## Structure

At Coombe Bissett School Collective Worship broadly follows the following cycles:

- The main events in the Christian Calendar for the year.
- A Termly focus on the school value that is in focus that term.
- A weekly cycle of:
  - Monday = Whole school worship around one theme of the Value for the term
  - Tuesday = Class based worship around the Value
  - Wednesday = further whole school worship deepening the exploration of the theme in relation to the news in focus that week
  - Thursday = A member of the clergy delivering worship focused on a theme of the Value for the term
  - Friday = a celebration of all the things achieved that week and a reflection on the actions taken towards the weekly theme of the Value for that term

The daily structure will include opportunities for children to:

- An opening and concluding set of call and response that has a liturgical basis
- Learn from examples – Looking through the window
- Reflect on how this relates to them – looking into the mirror at themselves (self-reflection)
- Experience stillness and spiritual reflection - silent time to speak to God, or to reflect on the theme
- Share their thoughts
- Be challenged to take actions in relation to the theme and their reflections
- Share their actions they will take – stepping through the door
- Be invited to take part in a prayer
- Be invited to share their own prayer.

## Planning

In planning worship regard is given to:

- Observing the cycle of the Anglican church year and selecting themes appropriate to this and the pupils' aptitude and ability: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost.
- Using the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning.
- Reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in worship (for example, bread, wine, chalice, cross and crucifix are symbols which lead to an understanding of the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection).
- Participating in the invitational regularity of traditional prayers, responses, psalms and hymns set order of Anglican worship. This recognises the central significance of the Eucharist while acknowledging the variety of other forms of worship, which may be decided locally in order to match, as far as possible, pupils' experience in school and church.

- Providing opportunity to discover the value of meditation, reflection and silence within the context of Christian worship.
- Experience the bond of community which encompasses gender, age, race and religious opinions.
- Linking with the broad dimensions of the curriculum.
- Creating an atmosphere for worship by the use of appropriate music, visual foci and symbols and creative arts.
- Children leading worship.

### **Children Leading Worship**

Children play a leading role in worship on a daily basis through:

- Leading the opening and closing call and response.
- Sharing their reflections.
- Being invited to share a prayer.

Children also lead worship each term through:

- Weekly celebration of those who have taken action' and walked through the door towards the theme for the week relating to the value of the term. Regular Diary of Reflection class workshops each term, where they create their own thoughts on the Value. These are recorded each week on a class 'scroll' where children are nominated by their peers who have spotted them taking this action.
- A termly 'Diary of Reflection' worship where some of these personal reflections are shared.
- A 'we were wondering' worship where children ask the clergy some deeper questions and the clergy provides responses to these questions.
- Children feeding back on collective worship through the Worship Council and actions being taken as a result.
- The Worship Council planning and delivering a worship each term.
- Children creating, planning and delivering parts of the worship – such as drama for the 'window'.
- Children planning the worship such as the 'Advocates Worship' where children share their hobbies and interests to encourage community.
- Each class leading a worship once a year.

### **Legal requirements**

Coombe Bissett School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School.

As such it has a Trust Deed which states that worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England'.

In accordance with legal requirements (School Standards & Framework Act 1998) an act of collective worship, taking account of the age, aptitude and background of pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents. The school expects that withdrawal will only be made following discussions with the headteacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school has a system of suitable supervision for children withdrawn from acts of worship. Staff are asked to attend the act of collective worship.

### **Recording and Evaluation**

Daily evaluation is done by the person leading Collective Worship.

Termly evaluation takes place in a staff meeting where the themes, coverage of different aspects and the impact of Collective Worship are discussed.

A children's Worship Council feeds back twice a term to the collective worship lead and termly to the clergy.

### **Monitoring**

The Collective Worship is monitored through:

1. Discussion at staff and governor meetings (minutes to be kept with the records). This discussion will include:
  - Review of content and methodology;
  - Suitability for age, aptitude and ability, variety of styles, groupings, leadership;
  - Links to curriculum and classroom experience; ☐ Resources and budget; ☐ INSET.
2. Review of job description and role of collective worship co-ordinator;
3. Attendance at worship by foundation governors for monitoring purposes;
4. Asking "are the requirements of law being met?"

Reviewed: October 2021

Ratified by FGB: Term 2 2021

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