

# Monkton Church of England Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Our Christian Values are:

**Trust**   **Friendship**   **Compassion**   **Forgiveness**   **Justice**

*At Monkton Church of England Primary School we aim to create a community that enables every child to be and do the best they can.*

*We will actively promote the development of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness, fostering attitudes of tolerance and respect which ensures every member of the school community feels important and valued.*

*In school we celebrate and promote our Christian and British values. Our policies are written with the importance of these in mind and they underpin our Christian school ethos.*

At Monkton Church of England Primary School, we believe that Collective Worship plays an important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to promote the Christian foundation of our school, to celebrate and support all aspects of school life and to provide time for stillness and reflection in what is often a busy and active day for our children. We recognize that we may have children at the school from a variety of faith traditions and those with no faith background. It is essential that great care and sensitivity is used to ensure all children feel valued and special.

## **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 teach children how to worship and understand the nature and language of worship;
- to develop the children's understanding of the Christian faith.
- to develop pupil's awareness of the Trinity.

## **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. All children take an active part in our worship time.

As a Controlled Church of England School our worship is in accordance with the beliefs and traditions of the Church of England. All Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled Church of England Schools are required by law to conduct worship in accordance with the Christian character of the school. There is no difference in law.

## **Organization of Collective Worship**

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each morning worship. At Monkton Church of England Primary School this takes place at 10.15am each day, in the school hall. All teaching staff and some support staff are involved in leading the Act of Worship. On occasions, we also hold class worship instead of whole school worship.

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that this 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, a candle and a cross as a focal point for the attention of the children.

Both teaching staff and children lead worship time. Our local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups are invited to lead our worship on a regular basis.

We take the themes for our worship from the Diocese planning and we also incorporate this with SEAL resources and cultural events. They are planned a term in advance to allow staff to be fully prepared and to find resources as needed.

Collective Worship time reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in worship by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognized. Monkton Church of England Primary School is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children in Collective Worship.

We invite parents to our special worship times such as the Harvest Festival and Leavers Service. We also hold a Carol Service and some years an Easter Service where the community is invited to join us. Since 2009 we have also held a Remembrance Day Service and the local community are invited to join us with parents and other family members. We welcome governors' attendance at our Collective Worship.

### **Elements of Worship**

The elements to our worship are:

- Gathering
- Engaging
- Responding
- Sending

The list of activities and experiences below are used to foster a deeper understanding of the nature of worship and enable everyone to join in.

- Reflection and prayer
- Praise and song
- Readings
- Discussions and silence
- Dance and drama
- The Lord's Prayer – this is said on a regular basis.

Following our Inspection in November 2011 we have reviewed our planning and recording sheets to provide, more opportunities for kinesthetic activities in order to meet the needs of all learning styles.

### **Resources**

The school has a wide range of books and resources which are kept in the library. We use a range of resources to support worship singing and worship. Hymn words are usually projected onto the hall wall.

The school has many artifacts and pictures which provides additional resources.

The school has a range of music CDs.

The school uses the liturgical colours on the worship display. This display also includes the Christian Church School values. These were agreed by parents, staff and governors in March 2012.

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### **The Legal Position and Right of Withdrawal**

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that collective worship must take place on a daily basis for all registered pupils. The religious foundation of Monkton Church of England Primary School is Church of England and the daily Act of Collective Worship is delivered in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England. Any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. These children will have the opportunity to complete activities in the school library. 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.

The head teacher keeps a record of all children who are withdrawn from collective worship.

### **Record Keeping, Monitoring and Review**

Each act of worship is recorded on a weekly planning sheet which was adapted from the Diocese sheet. These are kept in the staffroom and at the end of a term the head teacher files these in the Act of Worship record file. The head teacher is responsible for the monitoring of the collective worship. This will include observations and talking to children. Peer and pupil monitoring of worship also takes place. The monitoring includes identifying any kinesthetic activities which take place. It is also 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 head teacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

### **General Points**

What is learned and experienced in worship is sometimes developed and reinforced in other areas of school life. Prayers are also said at different times of the day such as grace at lunch time and end of day prayers. The school has a Prayer Tree inside the main hall where children and staff can put their own prayers. These are sometimes used as part of the worship.

This policy will be kept under review and updated as necessary

Signed: .....Head Teacher

Signed.....Chair of Governors

Date.....