

# **St John Baptist (Southend) CE Primary School**

# **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**



**Agreed: March 2019**

**Review Date: March 2021**

**By: Faith Group**

The Governing Body at St John Baptist (Southend) CE Primary School believes that everyone is created in the image of God and is of infinite worth: 'So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them,' Genesis 1:27. The school's Collective Worship Policy is based on Christian values.

### **Christian Vision**

'As I have loved you, so you must love one another.' **John 13.34**

At our school, every child flourishes and becomes a "shining light." We achieve this by following Jesus, loving learning, being a friend and standing strong. Guided by our Christian Values, we celebrate our diversity with joy.

At St John's our school community seeks to be 'a shining light'. We believe that this can be achieved through a Christian ethos of tolerance and care, based on Jesus' teaching in Matthew 25: 35-40. We strive to nurture our school community in this goal with the help of prayer and reflection. Collective Worship has a central importance to the ethos of St John's, and is prioritised throughout the week. It is carried out in accordance with our Church of England school distinctiveness

Through Collective Worship we aim to:

- reflect on the teachings of Christ
- deepen spiritual awareness
- affirm Christian values and attitudes
- celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- share each other's joys and challenges
- experience stillness, peace, awe, wonder, mystery, reverence and belonging
- foster respect and unity
- help children develop their own search for meaning
- fulfil our Christian Vision and provide a prayerful community in which each child will flourish

Collective Worship contributes to the development of pupils' understanding of Anglican traditions and practice. Special services are held in the Church. There is

also weekly worship in Church led by the clergy. Year 6 pupils annually attend services at the Cathedral.

Collective Worship forms an integral part of our pupils' spiritual development. It is an opportunity to place children at the heart of our communion with God. Worship is underpinned by our Values Education programme which seeks to promote spiritual, moral, social, and emotional well-being. This is achieved by immersing children in the language of our value words and enabling them to reflect on how they relate to God, their lives and aspirations. Worship provides opportunities for pupils to share with each other aspects of their learning and development as spiritual individuals.

Collective Worship is timetabled and takes place at 9.20 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; at 1.30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, (Thursday's worship is held in church). Children also pray in the classroom before lunch.

During the course of the year we aim to provide the opportunity for pupils, staff and visitors to:

- celebrate festivals and special events
- explore aspects of a variety of belief systems and cultural heritages
- reflect on local and national issues
- identify and establish shared values
- promote positive attitudes towards our stewardship of the world and its inhabitants.

This is achieved through:

- prayer
- Bible readings and quotations
- story telling
- visiting speakers
- role play activities
- performance
- class presentations

All staff and pupils currently take part in Worship, though the right to withdraw does exist.

### **Resources**

Resources are bought with the annually allocated Collective Worship budget and stored in a central place for use by all staff.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

All acts of worship are planned and recorded. Worship is evaluated through questionnaires and School Council discussions. Governors also attend worship when they visit and provide informal feedback. These evaluations form part of the ongoing review of Collective Worship.

### **Inclusion**

Collective Worship is planned and led so that all pupils have equal opportunity to take part and benefit from the experience. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship, as identified in the Education Act 1944, and in subsequent legislation. St John's is a Church of England Voluntary Aided primary school where Christian values and principles underpin the whole curriculum and the experience of daily worship by the school community is an important part of school life. In order to preserve the distinctiveness of this church school community, we encourage everyone to be involved in religious education and collective worship. Parents who have concerns about this should discuss them with the Chair of Governors and the Headteacher before their children are admitted to the school.