



# Worship Policy

Chair of Governors	
Headteacher	Mrs L Shelford
Date adopted: Nov 23	Review Date: Nov 24

*"I am the vine; you are the branches." John 15:5*

Christian Vision: Jesus said, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

Just as the branches need the vine to grow and bear good fruits, so we need each other. Within the District family, each person is valued and loved, reaching out throughout our school, homes, families and the wider community for a stronger future. This worship policy demonstrates the importance of our Christian vision in our approach to an inclusive practice, which is firmly rooted in Jesus’ love for all.

#### Our Christian values:

Friendship, trust, compassion, love, forgiveness, endurance.

Our Christian vision and Christian values are the golden threads that weave throughout everything that is achieved at The District CE Primary School. Just as the branches need the vine to grow and bear good fruits, so we need each other. Within the District family, each person is valued and loved, reaching out throughout our school, homes, families and the wider community for a stronger future.

#### The Role of Collective Worship

Collective Worship occupies an important and unique place in the life of the school as it provides an opportunity for the members of the school community to pause from activity and gather together, to remind themselves of and to reflect upon the beliefs and values, which bind us together. It can play an important role in deepening the spiritual awareness of our pupils and staff, providing an opportunity to reflect upon the value, purpose and meaning of life and life’s events. Pupils and staff share an experience of reflection and quietness to counterbalance the busy activity that generally marks the rest of the school day.

Within worship, the term ‘collective’ means inclusive, inclusive for all members of the school community, being predominantly Christian, with the opportunity to hear stories and words from other religions and literature throughout the year. And so, special times of Collective Worship are planned in the school year to acknowledge the significance of key religious festivals from the main world religions and cultures. In line with legislation that states Collective Worship should be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’, we place particular emphasis on the Christian festivals of Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. When looking at other religious festivals, our concerns are the reasons behind these celebrations.

#### Personal Development through Collective Worship

Collective Worship contributes to a person’s spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual development.

As outlined by both the DfE and Liverpool Diocese.

**Spiritual** development involves the growth of pupils’ sense of self, their unique potential, understanding of their strengths and weaknesses and their will to achieve. RE enriches and encourages the pupils’ discovery of God the creator, of their ‘inmost being’ and of the wonder of the environment.

**Moral** development involves pupils acquiring an understanding of the difference between right and wrong and of moral conflict, a concern for others and the will to do what is right. Within a church school, this is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, which offers pupils a secure foundation on which to make decisions and build their lives.

**Social** development involves pupils acquiring an understanding of the responsibilities and right of being members of families and communities (local, national and global), and an ability to relate to others and to work with others for the common good. As a church school, social development enriches pupils' understanding of what it means to live in a Christian community where Jesus' command to love one another is put into practice.

**Cultural** development involves pupils acquiring an understanding of cultural traditions and an ability to appreciate and respond to a variety of aesthetic experiences. Within a church school, this provides opportunities to develop an understanding of Christianity as a worldwide, multi-cultural faith that has an impact on the lives of millions of people.

Intellectual development is promoted by providing an opportunity to learn and engage with their minds, have ideas concerning values that can be confirmed or challenged, reflect the importance of learning in the context of our school community, consider the power that words can have.

Consequently, it is our aim to touch one or more of the above areas in each act of daily worship, including praise time and celebrations.

Aims:

- To provide an opportunity for pupils and staff to:
  - ✓ Worship God in their own way, developing their own spirituality and relationship with God
  - ✓ Consider and reflect upon social and moral issues
  - ✓ To look out to the wider world and take note of events through the appropriate expression of joy or sorrow
  - ✓ Explore their own beliefs and values
  - ✓ Develop spiritually through exploring the important questions about life and creation
  - ✓ Develop an understanding of the Holy Trinity
  - ✓ Explore global Christianity and similarities and differences around the world
  - ✓ Gain knowledge, understanding and respect for other world faiths and their traditions
- To encourage pupils and staff to respond and participate through:
  - ✓ Active involvement in collective worship through a range of creative opportunities, e.g. music, silence, symbol, story and drama
  - ✓ Reflecting on the impact of important issues on their own lives
- To celebrate life in school in the presence of God by:
  - ✓ Building a sense of community in school
  - ✓ Developing and reflecting on the values of our school
  - ✓ Celebrating work undertaken by pupils in all areas of school life and achievements outside of school
- To promote a common ethos and shared vision and values, reflecting the Christian tradition, with regard for the faith communities represented within school.
- To reinforce positive attitudes through deep exploration of our core values and their impact on everyday life.

#### Collective Worship at The District CE Primary

Collective worship, including class worship, should:

- Be planned, resourced and led, following the half termly guidance;
- Be calm and welcoming, using reflective music for participants to enter and exit worship to, showing the beginning and end of worship time;
- Have a focal point with a candle, cross and related artefact;
- Include Anglican responses, such as 'The Lord be with you, and with you';

- Include Christian prayers, namely The Lord's Prayer and The Grace;
- Follow a structure which includes personal reflection time;
- Be treated with reverence, with staff and pupils entering and leaving in a quiet and orderly fashion.

### Classroom worship areas

Each classroom has its own reflective worship area. Within this area there will be:

- A Bible;
- A cross;
- A candle;
- Christian values displayed;
- School's Christian vision;
- Lord's Prayer & The Grace;
- Our school prayer;
- Prayer tree;
- Christian values dice.

The focus of these areas is to remind pupils and staff that we are a Christian school and that our Christian vision and values are central to everything we do. Class teachers are welcome to personalise their worship areas with their class, remembering the reason we have them.

### Preparation and Planning

Collective Worship follows the school's Christian values, with the RE/Worship Leader planning an overview for each half term. All teaching staff plan and deliver worship within their key stage. This can include involving children from the worship team where appropriate.

Monday: whole school worship led by the Headteacher or a member of the leadership team.

Tuesday and Wednesday: Key Stage and class-based worship

Thursday: Key Stage 2 Praise Time

Friday: whole school celebration

Once each half term, Rev. Tim leads KS2 worship

Our intention is that worship will evoke a personal response for all participants. To gain an insight into this, pupil and staff views are collected regularly. Pupils and staff are invited to write prayers or reflections on a heart shaped decoration to be hung from the class prayer tree. Parents, families and visitors are invited to do the same and hang their prayers on the school prayer tree, which is in the main reception area.

Pupils from across year 1 to year 6 are represented by our school ethos group. These pupils support teachers in delivery and evaluation of worship, providing the voice of our pupils. Each half term, the ethos group meet to discuss class worship areas and create new items/ artefacts to be displayed, so supporting the spiritual reflection of individuals within each class.

### Visits and Visitors

Having strong links with our church is important. Throughout their time at school, all pupils have the opportunity to take part in and lead worship at St. John's Church.

Reception & KS1: Christingle

Year 4: Harvest

Year 5: KS2 Carol Service

Year 3: Easter

Ethos team: Pentecost

Year 6: Leavers' service of thanksgiving

Year 2 pupils attend A Christmas Journey at All Saints church

Year 5 pupils attend Easter Experience at St. John's church

Year 6 pupils attend the Diocesan Leavers' Service at Liverpool Cathedral

### Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents and guardians have a legal right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship, providing they give written notification to the head teacher. Teachers can also exercise their right to withdraw from leading or attending acts of worship *but* attending assemblies is part of a teacher's contractual day.