



## POTT SHRIGLEY CHURCH SCHOOL

*'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you'*

### **Worship Policy (Spring 2024)**

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

### **Introduction**

This policy has been prepared by the governors and headteacher with assistance from the teaching staff and the Incumbent. *Diocesan guidelines for collective worship have been referred to.*

Arrangements for collective worship in a church school are the responsibility of the governors in consultation with the headteacher. Foundation Governors have a particular responsibility.

There are three main legal requirements for collective worship.

- Collective worship in a Church of England School should be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words the law on collective worship in a community school, that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character does not apply in a church school, where it should be clearly Christian.
- The school must provide an act of collective worship for all children every day.
- The act of collective worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class unit.

### **The right of withdrawal.**

Collective worship at our school is inclusive, invitational and inspirational. However parents are able to exercise their right to withdraw in discussion with the headteacher. This does not mean that the children will be in any way exempt from the Christian ethos of the school which underpins the whole of school life. Parents are made fully aware of this when they enrol their children.

## Aims and Objectives

At Pott Shrigley Church School we always seek to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school and its care for all who work here. Children are helped to understand the meaning of Christian worship and we hope that believers will be able to share in it and that others of no faith will reach the 'threshold of worship'.

Our central aims of collective worship (*as detailed in the Diocesan guideline*) are to:

- Enable children and staff to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition.
- Lead the school community to the 'threshold of worship' in order for them to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Include a reference to the bible or a bible story as part of our worship.
- Seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'no faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship God.
- Use celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth.
- Provide opportunities for the whole school community to address God directly through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit through acknowledging his presence, reflecting upon his character and giving Him praise and honour.
- Use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate and lead worship.
- Encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework by learning more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ through worship.
- Raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- Explore and become familiar with stories from the bible especially the story of the life and death and resurrection of Jesus.
- Reaffirm, strengthen and practise key Christian values. (e.g. love, peace, compassion, forgiveness, self giving) and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God.
- Nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally.
- Seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence.
- Develop a sense of community within the school, the locality, (e.g. local church) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions.
- Foster a concern for the needs of others.

In summary within our daily act of collective worship, we aim to:

- Provide an opportunity for children to worship God and celebrate all that is good and beautiful and express thankfulness for the joy of being alive;
- Provide opportunities for children to share what is meaningful and significant to them, including the darker side of life;
- Ensure that the experiences provided are relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the children;
- Give time for silent reflection and exploration of inner space;
- Illustrate forms of worship that others have found helpful in their spiritual development, e.g. silent contemplation, dance, singing;
- Provide a rich variety of forms of expression, e.g. art, drama, music, story and give children the opportunity to experience these at their own level rather than teachers imposing their own interpretations;
- Provide an environment that is conducive to worship, which is professionally coordinated and properly resourced;
- Always invite, never coerce, remembering that children will be at different stages of spiritual development and that they should feel able to respond and participate at their own level.

*(National Society Web site, 2007)*

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole school cycle of self review and this will be achieved over time by asking all stakeholders to reflect on school worship.

### **Monitoring**

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the headteacher and other members of staff/governors. Useful strategies for collecting the evidence will include:

- Written observations; checking that practice matches planning
- Observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- Conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback
- Seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors
- Observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- Holding regular discussions with colleagues
- Taking photographs when appropriate

Feedback will be brought to staff meetings which will review collective worship regularly every term.

## **Evaluation**

The information gathered via one or more of the strategies listed above will be analysed carefully in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the collective worship. The headteacher and foundation governors, including the incumbent, will be the main evaluators. Formal evaluation of collective worship will take place at **least annually**.

## **Review**

The headteacher, governors and staff will review this policy every *three* years. A worship planning and record sheet is kept weekly to ensure that acts of worship are generally compatible with the requirements of the policy and to inform our learning and planning for further developments. These will include any formal and informal evaluations of acts of collective worship which will assist monitoring, future planning and delivery. Visitors outside the school community who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of the collective worship policy.

## **Inclusion and Equal Opportunities**

A daily act of collective worship is held for all children regardless of their background of culture or religion. Every effort is made by the school to involve all children unless withdrawn by their parents in accordance with the law.

*The following extract is from our schools SEN and inclusion policy:*

At Pott Shrigley Church School we aim to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone feels happy, safe and secure. We promote an atmosphere of truth and honesty in which everyone feels valued and shows respect for each other and their surroundings. As a team, we are committed to high expectations and continuous improvement. We adopt a child centred approach to high quality teaching and learning, inspiring everyone to achieve their full potential.

## **Responsibilities**

It is the ultimate responsibility of the head and governing body of a school to ensure a daily act of collective worship takes place. At Pott Shrigley Church School, the responsibility to co-ordinate the acts of worship lies with the headteacher. She/he plans themes, invites and liaises with visiting speakers and keeps a record of the content of each act of collective worship. Monitoring and evaluation is the responsibility of the headteacher and foundation governors.

## **Conclusion**

At Pott Shrigley Church School, collective worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take an active part in a high quality daily act of collective worship. Worship may contain many elements but at Pott Shrigley Church School we seek to specifically ensure that the act of collective worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter;

## **Signature and date**

Policy last reviewed : March 2024

Next review date : March 2027

Worship Co-ordinator: Headteacher

Governor responsible for collective worship: Sally Winstanley