



# The Federation of Middleham VA and Spennithorne VC CE Primary Schools Collective Worship Policy

## 1. Introduction

The Federation of Middleham VA and Spennithorne VC CE Primary Schools are 2 primary schools in North Yorkshire, catering for children aged from 4-11. This Collective Worship policy has been designed with our school's population in mind. It is written in accordance with guidance from North Yorkshire's Standing Advisory Council for RE (SACRE).

## 2. Policy statement

This Collective Worship policy reflects the law (i.e. the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act) and strengthens the community ethos of the school.

Collective Worship will take place daily and will be planned so as to be appropriate to all pupils of any religion or none, to enable them to be present and take part as appropriate.

The aims of collective worship at FED-MAS

- All present should feel valued whatever their faith or personal beliefs.
- Under no circumstances will pupils be asked to accept beliefs, contrary to their family background.
- They will reflect the beliefs/backgrounds of individual and encourage a voluntary response from pupils.
- Worship will acknowledge and respect the responses of individual pupils and provide opportunities for them to express their feelings, delight at life, wonder, joy, rejoicing, sorrow, etc.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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
- 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.
- 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.

In summary within our daily act of collective worship, we aim to provide opportunities for children to:

- worship God;
- 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,
- 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;

- take place in 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.
- Evaluate the collective worship by stating which part of the session they preferred

This policy will be reviewed in line with the policy review schedule.

#### Addendum

During the COVID pandemic, pupils can not come together for collective worship in groups other than their bubbles. Therefore, the school has chosen to allow pupils access to Collective Worship via recordings, normally completed by the head teacher. This will contain the same aspects as highlighted above, including time of reflection, music (although not singing), prayer and stories.

Songs chosen allow the children to be involved through humming and actions.

Each term, pupils are requested to support the collective worship sessions by working alongside the teacher and recording a collective worship for the whole school ensuring they are involved safely with this important part of our church school day.

The school is aware that there is no interaction ( unless these are completed as live zoom meetings which are more problematic)

- identify the organisation that the visitor comes from / their credentials for leading faith worship in school. Leaders of faith worship should be practising members of the faith.
- Interpreting the law for our school
- Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship on grounds of conscience should they wish to do so, but we believe that Collective Worship is inclusive and beneficial for all pupils. Parents are asked to contact the Head Teacher to discuss any concerns.

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**Arrangements for those children withdrawn from Collective Worship**

- It is hoped that no child will have to be withdrawn from Collective Worship, but where this is the case, arrangements will be made to supervise the child being withdrawn by a member of school staff.

**4. The content of Collective Worship**

- Collective Worship may include the following:
- Describe how collective worship will make an impact on pupil's spiritual, moral social and cultural development. Give examples of the materials used and what may take place in collective worship.
- The content of Collective Worship will be designed to enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils: to provide opportunities for reflection: to celebrate the good, praise achievements and promote recognition of each pupil's own worth and potential.

**5. Conclusion**

At Spennithorne CE Primary 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 Spennithorne CE Primary School we seek to specifically ensure that the act of collective worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter.

**This policy will be reviewed in line with the school's policy review schedule.**