Dilton Marsh Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

This policy has been developed by a working group made up of:

- Head teacher:
- Senior Leadership Team:

Schedule for review of this policy:

The implementation of this policy will be monitored by:	Sharon Broad
Monitoring will take place:	Annually
The Governing Body will receive a report on the implementation of this policy:	Annually
Next Review Date:	November 2022

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the following:

- RE Policy
- SMSC Policy

Our school vision is

"Together, we strive to provide a safe, nurturing and challenging environment within our Christian ethos of kindness and respect.

We share a passion for life-long learning and strive for the best for ourselves, others and the World.

Children are encouraged to become independent, curious and resilient learners with the ability to learn from their mistakes and accept challenges."

As a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School, we belief that our Collective Worship should enhance and promote that Vision.

We define collective worship as worship that reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief. We believe that collective worship should provide children with the opportunity to be part of a daily experience that is special and separate from other daily activities. We believe that collective worship has the potential to unite the school community. We also believe in the importance of Spirituality for all children and encourage all pupils to think deeply and reflectively to enable them to build resilience, reflection, curiosity and independence.

Collective worship contributes to all of the above as well as promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child.

"For Nothing is Impossible with God."

Aims of Collective Worship

Our aim at Dilton Marsh C of E Primary School is that worship should:

- reflect our Vision and values of the school;
- instil a sense of awe and wonder in the children;
- provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- be inclusive and an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected;
- will have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity;
- offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church;
- underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school;
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community;
- help children explore and develop their own spirituality;
- encourage moments of prayer, reflection and stillness;
- enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs;
- celebrate special occasions in the Churches year and the life of the community
- show appreciation for the God given gifts and talents of the school community
- celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.

Statutory Requirements.

Collective worship at Dilton Marsh Church of England Primary School complies with the legal requirements as set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The law states that 'Collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character which means that it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief'. We recognise that collective worship needs to be flexible enough to encompass the age, aptitude and background of all the children in the school.

Organisation of collective worship.

We conduct our Collective Worship times in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that collective worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate manner. 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 and candles or sometimes other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. Our worship usually take place within the school hall, however a number of services a year are held in the church itself and then a larger congregation of parents can join in the worship. We also have the grounds to hold worship outside.

We take the themes of our Collective Worship times from our termly Christian Values, the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our Collective Worship times reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We use the Roots and Fruits Resource to support the planning of assemblies.

Our Collective Worship times also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Our Celebration Collective Worship times offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Dilton Marsh C of E Primary School is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children.

We welcome the input of visitors to our Collective Worships eg `Wessex water`, `Fair Trade` 'The Dogs Trust' assemblies. Our Church Team involves pupils when acting out Bible stories during our `Open the Book` times. We invite parents to our celebration worship on a Wednesday afternoon, and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

Children are encouraged to lead Collective Worship and once a week, worship is led by the School Council supported by children from Year 6.

British Values.

The themes for Worship also reflect British Values, such as democracy, different forms of law, respect, combatting discrimination and making a positive contribution to society. Through Worship pupils are encouraged to understand and appreciate differences, including differences in religious

belief and practice, sexuality, race, appearance, ability and cultural background and to recognise that all human beings are made in the image of God.

Cultural Capital.

Through Collective Worship we can provide the children with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life. Our understanding of 'knowledge and cultural capital' is derived from the following wording in the national curriculum: **'It is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.'** We will provide the children with occasions to hear, experience, learn about famous persons, places, music, inventions, art, and we will link these learning opportunities to Our Vision and Values such as Perseverance, Compassion, Hope and Respect.

The Character of Collective Worship.

The Collective Worship lead works closely with the clergy of Holy Trinity Church, Dilton Marsh, in order to plan together and to maintain good school and church relationships and to join together as appropriate, for instance to celebrate Christingle, Easter, Harvest and Christmas. We aim to include the children in the planning and delivery of our Collective Worship, wherever possible.

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning. All those leading collective worship are asked to plan their act of worship in as much detail as they would any other learning activity.

Our weekly worship routine is as follows:

Monday – worship led by the head teacher or SLT member

Tuesday – Class worship

Wednesday –Celebration worship with Parents in the afternoon.

Thursday – Class Worship.

Friday – School Council Worship.

Right of withdrawal.

We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, 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. 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 Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring and review.

Collective Worship is evaluated by those leading the worship, other staff, the pupils for whom the worship is intended, members of the governing body or visitors. A range of strategies are used by staff to assess the outcomes of collective worship including,

• Observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest shown during the sessions

• Feedback from pupils

• Parents' comments, written and verbal

• Observation of the children's general behaviour in and around the School and towards one another

• Comments made by visitors to the school

The governor responsible for RE, has a role monitoring Collective Worship in school. It is the role of the school governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.

Equal Opportunities and Special Needs.

The staff and Governors are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will benefit from collective worship. Every attempt is made, therefore, to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests and reflect the multicultural society we live in.

COVID-19 Addendum:

Currently due to the need for social distancing between bubbles all Collective Worship takes place withing individual class settings.

This takes a variety of forms,

- **Collective Worship led remotely by the White Horse Team Ministry.**
- **Class Worship linked to our School Values.**
- **Stories that support our Values.**
- **Moments of Reflection and mindfulness.**
- **Worship led by staff and Year 6 across the school via TEAMS.**
- **Weekly Picture News Assemblies.**

And is planned across each Term linked to festivals, celebrations and National events such as Remembrance and Anti- Bullying Week.

Monitoring and Evaluation takes place following the earlier format.