

KIRK FENTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Collective Worship Policy

Approved: Autumn 2025

Review date: Autumn 2028

Rooted in Christian belief, our vision is for everyone in our school community to be valued and respected for who they are.

Through cultivating a love of learning, every individual will have the opportunity to shine and flourish - together.

*"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven."*

*Matthew 5:14-16*



## Rationale

Our Collective Worship Policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of respect, kindness, community, thankfulness, perseverance and forgiveness and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community.

Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Therefore, Collective Worship at Kirk Fenton Church of England Primary School is planned:

- To be inspirational, invitational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- To regularly include biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the school's core Christian values.
- To have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- To help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide
- To challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of prayer, reflection and stillness
- We foster significant spiritual, moral, and cultural growth by providing all learners with experiences that inspire wonder, invite deep reflection, and demand a personal response
- To be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
- To contribute to pupils' strong moral compass by providing them with a set of values that can help prepare them for life and to help other people.

Collective worship should be invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of a different faith.

## Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the school's Trust deed and foundation.

## Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus and handbook.

## Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

Please refer to our Equalities Policy and SEND Policy, which can be found on our school website or at the school office for a paper copy.

## Planning Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for Collective Worship and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark this special time by lighting candles with a welcoming liturgy and closing with an invitational prayer and liturgy.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching practice. We encourage a five-stage structure of planning including:

Gathering

Engaging

Reflecting

Responding

Sending

There should also be space for evaluation to review and evaluate the acts of Collective Worship. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning, leading and monitoring of Collective Worship.

The school's governors have a role in monitoring Collective Worship. This could be the local vicar who is ex officio or our Foundation Governor. We also have a weekly worship with a member of the clergy from our local community of churches.

### **Pattern of Collective Worship**

Whole school worship is held daily at 10.25am on Mondays to Thursdays. This is taken by the Headteacher, a local ordained, licenced or authorised minister, or a teacher. Friday worship is held at 2.40pm and is a celebration worship.

Acts of worship generally follow themes that are linked to the school's vision and values, British values and include the pattern of the church's year.

### **Visitors**

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general, the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for a particular cause without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of Collective Worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our suggestion boxes and questionnaires, which are reviewed on a regular basis. These are shared with our Local governing body and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York (SIAMS).