



## Collective Worship Policy

A place for all to **grow and flourish**

Our Christian school will provide a safe and nurturing environment in which every child's gifts are celebrated so that they can flourish and achieve. Our school family will reach outwards to our community and the wider world in exploration, love and friendship.



### **Mark 4:30-32**

*The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. The mustard seed is the smallest seed you **plant** in the ground. But when you plant this seed, it **grows** and becomes the largest of all garden plants. It **produces** large branches. Even the wild birds can make nests in it and be protected from the sun."*

Reviewed & Updated by Full Governing Board on 12.07.2023

Review date: June 2025

Chudleigh C.E. V.C. Community Primary School is a place where Jesus Christ is at the centre of all the school is and does.

The new SIAMS evaluation schedule talks about worship being the 'heartbeat' of the school, beating away beneath everything that goes on in school. Just as the beating of a creature's heart is the signal that it is alive, the heartbeat of worship should signal the life, energy and Christian spirit of the school.

Worship is a 'time to breathe'; a time when all can come together to find a space, silence and quietness to reflect on their own spirituality, values and place in the world. Just as breathing is vitally important to life, worship is a significant and sacred time in the life of the school; ensuring the time is valued to allow all to 'breathe' through worship.

### **Mission Statement**

At our school we ensure that our Christian Foundation is evident in a variety of ways in order to provide 'life in all its fullness.'

We pray that the teaching and love of Jesus Christ will shape our values and relationships and provide a basis for the whole life of the school.

We hope that as the children of our school grow physically and mentally, they will also grow socially and spiritually, so gaining a real respect for themselves, for each other and, indeed, for the exciting world – God’s world- in which we live.

All our Collective Worship reflects our Vision and School Values of Friendship, Kindness, Teamwork, Love, Respect, Happiness and Forgiveness.

### **Aims**

The broad aim of collective worship at Chudleigh CE VC Community Primary School is to engage pupils with the spiritual dimension of life, and to do this by fostering conditions in which individuals and the whole community can flourish.

Specifically, it aims to promote those qualities and dispositions, which affect how people engage with life – how they relate to themselves, others, the world and God. It aims to nourish the inner life of individuals and the community of which we are all a part.

When appropriate our school acts of worship will take place in the Parish Church of St Martin and St Mary. It is our aim to encourage the children to become familiar with the life of the church within our rural community, and to feel part of its culture and tradition.

### **Acts of Collective Worship will:**

- draw upon the riches of Anglican and other Christian traditions
- take place daily and allow all involved to express praise and thanksgiving to God.
- promote the vision, values and ethos of our school
- be planned and led by children regularly
- be monitored by the Christian Distinctiveness Group, which includes staff, parents, governors and children.
- be interactive, enjoyable and engaging allowing for the sharing of joys, challenges, hopes and dreams.
- involve members of the local community on a regular basis
- allow time for quiet reflection and stillness for children to foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness about God’s world and our calling in his creation
- include British Values of tolerance, liberty, democracy, responsibility, law and respect, showing dignity and worth to others.
- provide opportunities for discussion for all to grow in wisdom through reflecting on the big questions of life and responding to national and global events, as well as relating to our local setting within a rural community.

### **Guidelines**

- There should be an act of Collective Worship every day to which every child within the school must be invited to attend. Every act of Collective Worship should have a clear beginning, shape and ending
- The leader should try to create a dignified, welcoming and inviting atmosphere conducive to worship by including some of the following...
- playing worship or reflective music as the children arrive
- displaying a picture, question or quote to engage children in the theme, or setting up the altar table with a candle and a cross
- try to ensure that children always have a role within the worship. This could be planned or spontaneous, individually, in groups or as a whole community. Be creative and allow the children freedom and opportunities to be creative within the worship experiences.
- children should be given a chance to discuss in talk partners, share their experiences/ideas.
- children will be encouraged to express themselves in worship through suitable songs, hymns and chants
- a time of stillness and silence should be included for the children to reflect and think about the key thoughts and a Bible message

- children should be given the opportunities to pray, which may be in silence, or out loud as a group, or on behalf of other children or in other ways e.g. actions, our School Prayer and The Lord's Prayer.
- it is important to send children out with a thought, verse, prayer or question to enable them to continue their thinking and to act upon their experience. There could be an invitation to write something for the class Spiritual space following worship.
- The end of worship provides a d good opportunity to close with a blessing prayer, a closing response and to extinguish the candle to show that worship has ended.

### **The style of Collective Worship:**

- Collective Worship is an opportunity for children to explore the spiritual dimension of their world.
- Collective Worship will include stillness as well as words, stories, drama, pictures, symbols, prayers, hymns, songs and music. Where possible it will encourage experience of all the senses.
- Common prayers, greetings and dismissals from the Anglican tradition will be used when appropriate.
- There will be expressions of thankfulness, praise, joy, sadness and loss to reflect School, Local, National and World events.
- Collective Worship will allow ethical and moral questions to be explored.
- Collective Worship will allow opportunities for corporate information sharing.

### **The Broad Church Traditions that underpin our worship include:**

- The Christian Year – All Saints and other Saints Days, Remembrance, Advent, Christmas, Christingle, Candlemas, Lent, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity.
- Christian symbols – Crosses, Altar, Bread, Wine and Water, Candles
- The Bible – Its stories, its understandings of God and its portrayal of human beings responding to God
- The Church – the stories of its history, its Saints and other great Christian people of the past
- Special Prayers and Liturgy – Collects, Psalms, The Lord's Prayer, Responses, Hymns.

### **General Timetable for Collective Worship (This is flexible)**

<b>Day</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>10.30</b>	<b>3.00</b>
Monday	WHOLE SCHOOL PRAYER THEME		
Tuesday		KEY STAGE TWO	KEY STAGE ONE Monthly – OPEN THE BOOK
Wednesday		KEY STAGE TWO	KEY STAGE ONE
Thursday	WHOLE SCHOOL PRAISE AND PRAYER		
Friday	WHOLE SCHOOL CELEBRATION		

### **Attendance**

At Chudleigh CE VC Community Primary School, we seek to be an inclusive community, embracing all and giving dignity and worth to all. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship on religious grounds, for example if they are a Jehovah's Witness or of another faith. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following discussion with the Head teacher or Worship Co-ordinator. The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, additional work is not often set or followed in this time. All teachers, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship.

### **Planning and Evaluation**

Termly Collective Worship is considered by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and a copy is saved in Curriculum Resources. There is detailed planning available and flexibility for staff to add their own ideas. In this way, the planning is continually enhanced, updated and relevant to the current situation. The Worship Co-ordinator evaluates the planning with staff, children and members of the Worship Team on a regular basis.

### **Opportunities for Prayer and Reflection**

A further aspect of our Collective Worship is that the school provides a variety of opportunities to allow children to engage in prayer and reflection in a variety of ways. Each classroom has a Spiritual/Prayer space which is kept up-to-date and relevant; displays the weekly prayer theme, the Lord's Prayer and School Prayer, thoughts the children have had during the week and child-initiated prayer. Children are encouraged to give thanks for their food before going to lunch each day and prayers are sometimes included on other occasions.

Other opportunities to engage in prayer and reflection many include prayers around the cross in the school hall, Bible quotations displayed around the school linked with our school vision and values and visits to our local church of St Martin and St Mary.

### **Worship Reflection Books**

All Year Groups now have a Worship Reflection Scrapbook where children are encouraged to add comments and thoughts about Collective Worship as often as possible. These provide a useful evaluation of the effect of worship and the development of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural understanding. Each term, these are monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and the information gathered is used to support further worship planning.

In addition to this, we also aim to provide opportunities to explore the beliefs and practices of other Christian denominations and where appropriate, people of other faiths and world views. These may include opportunities to

- Develop respect and sensitivity for the beliefs and practices of people of other faiths and world views
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others
- To encourage global citizenship and social responsibility
- To encourage positive contribution to the wider community through courageous advocacy
- To develop a sense of increasing respect and understanding in order to live cohesively in pluralistic societies

### **Visits and Visitors**

All visitors to the school and visits to places of worship are in line with our school safeguarding and health and safety policies. We ensure that all visitors are in line with the PREVENT and British Values curriculum and that they have met with a member of staff before the visit takes place.