

# Swainby and Potto Church of England (Aided) Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

### Mission Statement for Swainby and Potto Church of England (Aided) Primary School

#### Small School, Big Family

As a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, we hold the Christian values of hope, wisdom, peace, justice, friendship and trust at the heart of everything we do. We will equip all of our school family members with the skills and attributes necessary to fulfill their potential in the wider world. Through our engaging curriculum and high standards and expectations, underpinned by our Christian foundation, we strive to enable our young people to be creative problem solvers, connected with, and having reverence for, the outdoors and the environment. It is our mission to make learning irresistible for all.

#### Rationale

*'The Christian foundation of a church school points to worship as a central focus for its ethos.'* (York Diocese)

At Swainby and Potto (Aided) Primary School, Collective Worship is a quality activity, consistent with the faith and practice of the Anglican Church important to the life of the school and to its religious character. It is one of the means whereby Christian values and principles may be reflected and affirmed. Worship is, therefore, an area of church school life, which presents special opportunities to promote spiritual and religious development. It provides a means by which **all pupils** may understand more about the Christian faith, while experiencing and learning about worship and what it means to those who take part.

Our school Collective Worship recognizes that the school community is a collection of people from different backgrounds and does not pre-suppose shared religious beliefs, or seek uniform responses from pupils. At Swainby and Potto (Aided) Primary School, Collective Worship is a special time, which caters for a diversity of beliefs and points of view, allowing individuals to respond as individuals.

#### Aims

Through our acts of Collective Worship we aim to:

- affirm the distinctive Christian values of our school community
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the parish and local church and world wide Anglican communion and celebrate special occasions and seasons in the church's year and the life of the community

- foster attitudes characterised by feelings such as humility, awe, wonder, appreciation, thankfulness, respect, reverence and elation
- enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues and the many questions which relate to life
- acknowledge the things which have meaning, value and purpose for the pupils as individuals, as well as for the school and the wider community
- develop a sense of community within and beyond the school
- celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events relation to individual pupils within school, to the school as a whole, or to the wider community
- acknowledge and respect difference and diversity.

### **Learning Opportunities:**

In order to fulfil our aims we intend to provide opportunities for pupils to:

- make individual response and explore their inner thoughts and feelings
- reflect on Christian values and relate these to their experiences and those of others
- develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- listen and think about the world, themselves and others
- encounter the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and beliefs
- share in experiences of, e.g. sadness, excitement, joy, thankfulness, togetherness and challenge
- experience silence, stillness, meditation, contemplation and prayer
- celebrate shared values in the school, church and wider community

### **Planning, Managing and Organising Collective Worship**

Arrangements for Collective Worship in a voluntary school are made by the governing body after consultation with the headteacher. The headteacher is responsible for ensuring requirements are met. Foundation governors have a particular responsibility for ensuring, so far as is practicable, that the character or foundation of the school is reflected in collective worship.

Collective worship is organized on a half termly, thematic basis and provided at different times in the school day

### **Collective Worship and Spiritual Development**

Although spiritual development will be fostered across the curriculum, a concern for spirituality should lie at the heart of any act of worship in the church school.

#### **Ways in which this can be encouraged include:**

- celebrating what is good and expressing thankfulness for the joy of being alive
- providing opportunities for pupils to share in what is meaningful and significant to them, including the darker side of life
- ensuring that opportunities provided are relevant to the age, aptitude and backgrounds of pupils
- giving time for reflection and exploration of inner space and feelings of transcendence
- providing opportunities for a varied experience of Christian approaches to worship, illustrating those which other people have found helpful in their spiritual development
- providing opportunities for participation in a range of activities which enable pupils to express spirituality, giving pupils the opportunity to respond at their own level
- establishing an atmosphere which is conducive to worship
- providing an opportunity for sharing common concerns and responsibilities
- ensuring that the leaders of worship always invite – never assume or expect.

(York Diocese)

### **Diversity and Inclusion**

Acts of Collective Worship take account of the family backgrounds of all pupils as part of the school's commitment to diversity and inclusion. Particular care is taken to ensure that in acts of Collective Worship, diversity is embraced in positive and

sensitive ways through:

- building up positive relationships with families and local faith communities,
- providing opportunities for silent reflection to enable all pupils to make a personal response
- developing a sense of shared values and achievements which cross cultural and religious boundaries
- respecting the integrity of different faiths and life stances.

### **Opportunities for All**

The school believes that it is important for **all children** to have access to the learning opportunities provided through collective worship. Acts of collective worship are designed to support the less able and to extend the more able in ways, which are sensitive and appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils

To this end a variety of creative strategies are used, for example,

- music
- visual stimuli, such as artefacts, pictures, special objects
- stories, particularly those which enable pupils to come to terms with personal experiences through their capacity to promote self reflection and understanding of the thoughts and feelings of others
- drama.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

The governors, particularly foundation governors, head teacher, staff and link governor for collective worship regularly review the effectiveness of this area of the curriculum taking account of the following indicators:

- consistency with the school's distinctive Christian foundation
- evidence of opportunities to explore Christian values and principles
- potential of the content to promote reflection and response
- use of a range of creative strategies to promote spiritual development
- inclusive nature of Collective Worship and its appropriateness for all participants
- potential to foster a sense of community, identity and self esteem

- learning opportunities linked to pupils' own life experiences
- evidence of preparation, planning, delivery and evaluation
- appropriate use of resources and evidence that pupils have opportunities to encounter the Christian faith
- clarity of distinction between Collective Worship and Assembly
- evidence that Collective Worship is special and separate from the everyday activities of the school.

Date for review: 2016