



# **Collective Worship Policy**

**This policy should be read alongside our  
SMSC Policy**

**This policy was last revised and adopted by the Governing Board  
in: March 2023**

**After each revision the policy is circulated to all Governors,  
school staff and displayed in the staff room and on the school  
website.**

**The policy is to be reviewed by the Governing Board in: 2025**

## **Vision**

1 Thessalonians 5.11 " Encourage one another and build each other up"

Our school vision is easy to understand as it builds upon the above biblical teaching. Instead of being disappointed or giving up when things get tough, we should give each other the motivation and encouragement to remind one another that a better day lies ahead . At Jarrow Cross our Motto of "Value in Everyone" clearly reinforces the teachings of Paul and permeates school life, we believe that every child is entitled to enjoy their childhood, celebrate their individuality and be the best that God made them to be.

## **Mission**

Sitting below our vision lies our school Mission Statement

Jarrow Cross Church of England Primary School provides a caring Christian environment where EVERYONE is welcome and given the opportunity to develop their full potential.

This statement represents what we want our children to experience in every aspect of their life at Jarrow Cross.

## **Values**

Our Mission Statement is underpinned by our school values of Trust, Honesty, Friendship and Forgiveness. Our values were chosen by the children of Jarrow Cross.

### **Through our values we remember -**

How Moses put his trust in God during times of hardship

Exodus 3:13 "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.'

How Jesus taught his followers to be honest in their speech and to keep their promises,

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true;

The friendship between David and Jonathan which was severely tested,

1 Samuel 42 Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord"

How Joseph forgave his brothers and the many parables such as The Prodigal Son in which Jesus taught us to forgive one another.

5 Luke 11:32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

### **Rationale**

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.

Collective Worship and Assembly are not the same, although collective worship may be part of an assembly. Collective Worship is defined as worship appropriate of a group of individuals possessing a range of beliefs, believers and non-believers. Worship in Jarrow Cross CE Primary School reflects the traditions of the Church of England.

### **Aims**

- To provide opportunities to reflect upon our School Values of Friendship, Trust, Honesty and Forgiveness
- To highlight and nurture the spiritual dimensions of all through experience of worship
- To respect the integrity of all participants
- To provide acts of worship that are educational and suitable for all ages and aptitudes of all pupils
- To enable children to appreciate their worth and value
- To celebrate and express those Christian beliefs and values which bind all within the school community
- To encourage a positive and personal response to the school and the wider community
- To encourage respect and care for God's creation
- To meet the legal requirements

### **What is collective worship? Inclusive, Invitational, and Inspiring**

(Church of England Collective Worship Guidance Document Inclusive Invitational Inspiring (May 2021).

**Inclusive:** Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. In our school, pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. It is the aim of collective worship to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised but in which everyone finds something positive for themselves. Responses to collective worship may be in different ways and at different levels.

Moreover, many pupils will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Pupils are given the opportunity to think and

ask questions. There is space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back and to consider. Care is taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching.

Collective worship involves meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. It is recognised that pupils will bring their own experience to worship. Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship. Although part of a national legislative framework, collective worship in our school grows out of the local context and out of pupils' experience, including their cultural backgrounds.

**Invitational:** Worship is consistently invitational. Worship provides the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults are always invited to pray if they wish to do so and in their own way. Prayer is always accompanied by the option to reflect.

**Inspiring:** Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter at Jarrow Cross to be inspirational. Worship should be formational and transformational: it enables pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It motivates pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, all present should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage everyone to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

### **Provision of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is a vital part of the school day. Not only does it emphasise to the children the Christian character of the school, but it provides us with an ideal opportunity to embed our vision and highlight the values that we wish to promote within our school. Throughout the school year, collective worship is a time to celebrate together and mark certain seasons in the church calendar.

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year - Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saint Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection

### Time Allocation

A form of Collective Worship takes place every day. In a typical week the following format for Collective Worship is followed:

- Monday - Whole school led by the Head Teacher or Deputy Head
- Tuesday - Class Worship led by class teachers
- Wednesday - Whole School led by Head Teacher or Open the book led by member of the clergy
- Thursday - Key Stage Worship led by different teaching staff
- Friday - Whole School Celebration Worship led by House Captains

### Planning of Collective Worship

All leaders of collective worship plan worship that is inclusive, invitational and inspiring and follows the structure of **Gather, Engage, Respond and Send (GERS)**.

**Gather** - demarcates the space and start of collective worship. It could use the senses creating mood and atmosphere (see plan below)

**Engage** - the main part of the collective worship and an opportunity for pupils to engage with the bible's Christian teaching and more importantly with God.

**Respond**- a response should be possible for every one present. This could be answering questions, sharing thoughts, views, time to think, reflect, be still, to wonder ....It should move on from something we have heard to what does this mean for me?

**Send**- this is an opportunity for the spirit to transcend what we have learned back in the classroom, playground, home or beyond. It should be purposeful; people are sent out to be different, to do differently. What action are we sending everyone to do?

Worship should end with a blessing or prayer.

All classrooms support Collective Worship by having a Reflection Area and also having a wooden box containing the necessary equipment needed to create the correct atmosphere for Worship. Each box contains three candles, a bible, prayers and suggestions of questions which could be asked during the engagement and responding sessions of the Worship. All worships including Whole School and Key Stage follow the plan below.

### Collective Worship Plan

**Gathering** (Opening the worship and setting the mood)

**Leader:** Good Morning everyone Peace be with you

**Response:** And also with you

Take items out of the box

Light the candle - We light the candle today to remind us that God is The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Engaging** ( Sharing the main message)

Introduce story/ video etc

After story/ video Possibly use I wonder cards or Discussion Cards

**Responding** ( Response to story etc)

Reflection - Use Reflection cards

Prayer

**Sending** ( Completion of worship)

Put out candle

Put items back in box

Leader - God be with us in our classroom

Response - God be with us now

### **Pupil Participation in Collective Worship**

At Jarrow Cross children are enthusiastic contributors and participate in the following ways:

- Planning collective worship
- Singing
- Praying
- Bringing requests for prayers from their class prayer boards
- Writing their own prayers
- Asking and answering questions
- Empathising with characters in stories and relating them to their own lives
- Reflecting on questions and stories
- Role play and drama

### **Entitlement**

At Jarrow Cross CE Primary School we believe that collective worship is an important part of every child's spiritual development, therefore every child has the right to participate.

### **Equal Opportunities**

Our school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive

attitudes and values. It is about affirming the quality of each individual in God's sight, whatever the child's gender, ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

### **Special Educational Needs**

Collective worship is totally inclusive. All ages and abilities are provided for in planning and delivery of collective worship.

### **Withdrawal**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Acts of Collective Worship. However, parents should be aware that Jarrow Cross CE Primary School is a Church of England Primary School with distinctive aims and ethos. Parents who wish to withdraw are invited to discuss their concerns with the Head Teacher.

### **The contribution of collective worship to other areas of the curriculum**

Collective Worship can make a significant contribution to pupils' moral, social, cultural and spiritual development.

Collective worship contributes to pupils' **spiritual** development by providing opportunities to:

- Be curious and to express feelings of delight and wonder, (scientific investigations, new life, the global landscape)
- Empathise and consider the viewpoints of others, (debates, drama activities, discussing feelings and empathising with characters in familiar stories)
- Consider how a belief can change people's lifestyles, (R.E, investigating communities and faiths, historical case studies)
- Discuss what they think they have achieved and what they need to do to be successful in the future, (self-assessment, target setting activities)

Collective worship contributes to pupils' **moral** development by providing opportunities for:

- The teaching of PSHCE to be used as rich opportunities which are part of all areas of school life and learning
- Ensuring equality and the importance of tolerance and understanding of all groups regardless of race, religion or sexual orientation
- To encourage children to recognise sensations and therefore emotions, to manage their feelings and actions and allowing opportunities for thinking to take place between the two
- For children to become increasingly self-aware, recognising 'what is' and 'what isn't' acceptable behaviour and taking responsibility for themselves and their actions in age appropriate ways
- For children to receive individual or small group activities which incorporate creative activities and outdoor learning

- Reward positive behaviour, challenge inappropriate behaviour and set achievable targets for development

Collective worship contributes to pupils' **social** development by providing opportunities to:

- Model positive social behaviour
- Turn taking and team building activities
- Pair and small group work within the classroom
- Working with others across the local community
- Gather with others for a common purpose
- Share times of joy and sadness with others in the community

Collective worship contributes to pupils' **cultural** development by providing opportunities to:

- Share stories from different cultures
- Visitors from the local and international community
- Being part of National and International fund raising events
- Children be taught to understand and be tolerant towards the lifestyles and choices made by a variety of different groups and cultures.

Collective worship contributes to learning across the curriculum.

#### **RE**

- Reflection on their own beliefs and values, and those of others;
- Celebration of pupils' own and others' religious and cultural traditions;
- Appreciating and valuing the beliefs and practices of the Church of England;
- Appreciating and valuing the beliefs of others;
- Exploring ideas about the origin of the world and the universe.

#### **English**

- Stories including those from other cultures and faiths;
- Exploring how humans use language to convey inner meaning e.g. symbolism, allegory, analogy, myth, metaphor.

#### **RSHE**

- Development of a sense of belonging;
- Reinforces a sense of group and community identity;
- A consideration of innermost thoughts, feelings and beliefs
- Exploring lives, events and beliefs which exemplify qualities and universal values;
- Provides an opportunity for celebrating success and times of joy;
- Provides an opportunity for being together in times of sadness and sorrow;

- Offers the opportunity to mark significant points in the year such as festivals and international, national and local events;
- Learning to treat all people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance.

### **Science**

- An appreciation and awareness of the order and pattern within the natural world.

### **Developing staff expertise and knowledge**

At Jarrow Cross training is important so that those leading collective worship have a secure understanding of the nature of collective worship in a church school and are professional in their approach to working with pupils and adults from all faiths and none.

To do this we ensure that:

- worship leaders, have access to training, primarily through local diocesan education teams and / or resources;
- pupil worship leaders are supported, encouraged and resourced to contribute meaningful acts of worship;

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

We reflect on our practice and ensure that collective worship remains relevant and an essential component of an education

Leaders of Collective Worship evaluate their own Collective Worship. Collective Worship is monitored regularly by the head teacher through attendance at collective worship led by others.

Pupils and staff are involved in formally evaluating the quality of collective worship as their views are sought regularly. Their comments are listened to informally throughout the year.

Feedback to governors is given in the head teacher's reports or during governors' meetings. In addition, informal monitoring and evaluation by the Clergy takes place regularly as they participate in Collective Worship.

### **Success Criteria**

- The vision, values and mission statement of the school are embedded.
- Knowledge and relevance of faith in today's world increases including the teachings of Jesus.
- Adults and pupils grow and develop a deep spirituality.
- Pupils and adults know that worship is in many forms and worship in varied ways.
- Pupils and adults are skilled, knowledgeable and professional in leading collective worship.

The Collective Worship policy will be reviewed every 3 years by the governors or earlier if needed

Presented to Governors March 2023