



# Collective Worship Policy

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## Pytchley C of E Primary School Collective Worship Policy Statement

### **Statement of Intent**

The school will provide a secure caring Christian community where everyone can learn their own self-worth in an atmosphere of tolerance, mutual respect and co-operation.

We intend the school to be a happy and enjoyable place, where children have every opportunity to fulfil their potential in an attractive, well-resourced and stimulating environment.

We will encourage children to become confident, independent learners who are able to contribute positively to the school and the community in which they live so they can take their full place in society secure as individuals, whilst able to respect the needs and values of others.

At Pytchley School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement.

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

### **Christian Values**

Although difficult to define, we identify the values of forgiveness, fairness, respect and tolerance of others, integrity, compassion, honesty and self worth. We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

### **Values Education**

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

### **Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

### **Organisation**

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday – Thursday Whole School Worship led by the Headteacher.

Friday Whole School Celebration Assembly led by the Headteacher.

School Council may lead some assemblies.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship.

Pupils participate in assemblies when asked. Some write prayers to say. The assembly/worship should last approximately 15 minutes.

### **Planning, Content and Detail**

The themes for Monday's collective worship are based on the Value for the term, the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events.

The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music for the week. Sometimes music is chosen and played by children on their own instruments. The candles on the altar table are lit and the worship begins, a hymn is sung, a prayer is said which may be written by pupils. The candles are then blown out before any messages are given. This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played. Celebration assembly on Friday celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school.

### **Prayer and Reflection**

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, those written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of the whole school worship led by the Headteacher or other staff members, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles. A cross is also displayed above or on the altar table. At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by either an adult or child in each class. Teachers make an individual decision about whether to say a prayer with their class at the end of the school day. The school has a Prayer Tree, in the corridor. Children are encouraged to write short prayers and clip them onto the tree.

### **Other Faiths**

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs.

### **Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring**

A file is kept, recording details of each act of worship. Any evaluation will be recorded here. Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship.

### **Visits and visitors**

As part of the curriculum, Pytchley Endowed CE Primary School ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate. All Saints Church is used by the whole school for services including Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services.

### **Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues**

Children may be withdrawn from R.E. lessons at the wish of their parents. The Headteacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils. A governor for R.E. has been created on the governing body. The R.E. coordinator and governor liaise to discuss various aspects of R.E. and this ensures an effective line of communication between the coordinator and the governing body.

### **Equal Opportunities and special needs issues**

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.