

FRIENDSHIP

TRUST

JUSTICE

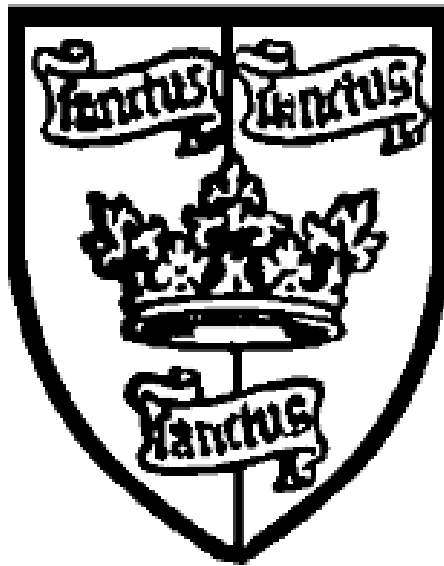
ENDURANCE

COMPASSION

KOINONIA

# Elton Church of England Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy



LOVE   
one  
another  
AS I HAVE  
loved  
 you  
John 13:34

## Intent

### Vision

At Elton Church of England Primary School, Collective Worship plays a central role in the life of our school. It has a special designated time within each day when all members of the school come together and participate in a gathering as a church school family. This time together fully embraces our values of Friendship, Trust, Justice, Endurance, Compassion and Koinonia. It develops our relationship with God inspiring us to grow spiritually.

Worship is an affirmation and celebration of our Christian ethos where adults and children have the opportunity to learn, worship and grow in their understanding of God and of themselves allowing them to deepen their inner senses and engender feelings of self-worth and uniqueness. It is therefore the 'heartbeat' of everything that we do and an expression of our school's Christian vision and values. We believe that we and our children are made in the image of God and that worship is a vital factor in this image becoming more real and meaningful. It should enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

### Values

**Friendship** - We are inclusive, respecting strengths and supporting each other as part of God's family- 'Love one another as I have loved you.'

**Trust** – We value the right to ask the 'big questions' in life and trust that these will be listened to respectfully.

**Compassion** – We use stories from religion to develop empathy and tolerance in the spirit of Christian love.

**Justice** – Our Collective Worship teaches that we are all equal in the eyes of God and inspires us to take action on behalf of those who are treated unfairly.

**Endurance** – We give pupils the resilience to cope well when things are difficult and the perseverance to overcome barriers to their own learning.

**Koinonia**- 'For in one spirit we were all baptised into one body' 1 Corinthians 12:13. We work together to show we are stronger as a whole.

## Aims

- Provide an opportunity for all children to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of other faiths and non to be present with integrity
- Highlight and nurture spirituality through experiencing worship
- To foster feelings such as awe, wonder, fascination, thankfulness, mystery and joy
- Provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship forms, including music, silence, stories, symbols and imagery
- Provide an opportunity to bring before God in prayer, personal needs and those of others
- Enable pupils to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer in a search for meaning
- Share some of the central teachings of the Christian faith, and thereby give them the encouragement to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- Enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God, and to the community, and to respect the integrity of all individuals as a child of God
- Foster a feeling of community and belonging through developing relationships: with each other, with the local community and with God, through a sharing of experiences and feelings
- Help children to develop a feeling of empathy for others and take action in response to poverty, inequality and global environmental issues encouraging respect and care for God's creation
- Invite members of our community and local church to become memorable people for our children and create invaluable experiences
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of Collective Worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

## Implementation

Our Collective Worship cycle is based on Christian values. We adopt themes from the traditions of the Christian faith, teachings of Jesus, events of the Christian calendar and times of celebrations. We also make plans in relation to key initiatives from the diocese (Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge or responding to local or national events). Our whole school values are reinforced during Collective Worship so that the children learn how important these values are to us as stewards of God's world.

Our Collective Worship are led by the Headteacher, teachers, the vicar of our Parish or his representative, other religious visitors and increasingly, the children themselves. The participation of the children is encouraged through a range of activities in any given act of worship.

Every Friday our celebration Collective Worship is based upon the achievements and learning of the children both inside and outside of school. We encourage the children to participate by showing their work to other children and the wider school community along with certificates, medals or trophies achieved as individuals or in teams. This plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school which is that all children are valued and loved, "Love one another as I have loved you."

## Content

Collective Worship may include:

- examples of lives of people of faith and other good human beings
- stories supporting themes from a range of sources, including sacred texts, faith communities and secular books where these support the Christian act of Worship
- responses to key local, national and international events
- marking the celebration of a broad range of religious and cultural festivals that reflect the diversity of faiths contained within the community, ensuring that this part of the assembly is separate from the act of Worship
- providing an opportunity to think about their own beliefs whether religious or otherwise
- consideration of questions you wouldn't think about elsewhere – not necessarily with easy / definitive answers
- putting things into practice – e.g., supporting charities
- providing a moment for silent reflection / prayer
- celebration of successes of members of the school community
- performances or presentations from members of the school community
- input from visiting speakers / experts where this input has been discussed beforehand with the headteacher to ensure that it meets the requirements of a church school act of Collective Worship and where the format of the act of Worship has been agreed

and follows the format outlined in our **Collective Worship Procedure** (Appendix 1)

### Roles and Responsibilities

The RE leader is responsible for Collective Worship. This includes:

- Organising Collective Worship (values, visitors, procedure, resources including music etc)
- Planning religious festivals
- Pupil voice in Collective Worship and RE. (Worship Leaders)
- Liaising with foundation governors and organising monitoring visits

Classroom teachers are responsible for:

- Acting in accordance with this policy
- Planning their own acts of worship
- Writing class prayers to be used in worship
- Preparing and rehearsing their class contributions to Christian festivals and special services

Worship Leaders are responsible for:

- Planning, leading and evaluating their own acts of worship
- Carrying out pupil voice monitoring tasks
- Welcoming participants at the door with a greeting
- Sending out participants encouraging them to live out our school vision- "Love one another as I have loved you."
- Leading the Lord's Prayer (with signing)
- Thinking of individual ideas to raise awareness of issues or incidences that need addressing
- Liaising with our linked school Love the One (A Christian run charity)
- Writing a school prayer
- Supporting adults leading the worship
- Supporting our children in school to understand our school values

- To be models of inspiration and aspiration of faith and be recognised as an example to others for demonstrating Christian values

### **Legal and Statutory Requirements**

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance.

### **The right to withdraw**

From the time of the 1944 Education Act, parents have had the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. The school must comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child and parents are not required to give their reasons for wanting to do so. Anyone wishing to withdraw their child must inform the Headteacher in writing and we will respect their wishes. We hope that all children in our school will participate fully in Collective Worship.

## **Impact**

Through the daily acts of worship, the children at our school will be examples of and models of our Christian values in action. The children will talk confidently about the school's Christian vision and how the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Bible develops their understanding of the Christian belief in God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

### **Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis by the subject leader.

The scheduled review date for this policy is September 2023.

The subject leader will review Collective Worship in the school, ensuring that the content adheres to guidance from the Church of England.

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all stakeholders.