

# St Chad's Patchway CE VC Primary School

*"Learning to love, loving to learn"*

## Collective Worship Policy

### Vision

At St Chad's CE VC Primary School we are constantly striving for excellence in all that we do by setting high expectations and working together as a community to provide a happy, secure and stimulating environment where children are motivated to learn, are valued as individuals and enriched by an experience that enables them to thrive in tomorrow's world.

### Aims

To provide daily collective worship for all children, within the broad tradition of Christian worship.

We believe collective worship to be an important vehicle for children to:

- Explore and share beliefs
- Consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence
- Reflect on their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs
- Relate ideas and beliefs to their own lives
- Think about the needs of others
- Develop a sense of community

The aims of our collective worship are:

- Inclusive, so that they are appropriate and relevant to all the children at St Chad's Primary School, regardless of their personal commitment or life stance
- Educational, and suitable to the children's ages, aptitudes and backgrounds
- Spiritual, so that there is a sense of occasion and a time for reflection and thought
- A form of worship, enriching senses and feelings which are relevant to everyday life and celebration, reaffirming values and beliefs
- Sensitive to the wonders and mysteries of the world
- Appreciative that people differ and should be approached in a spirit of openness, whatever their belief or culture
- Caring for the school community and fostering a sense of individual worth
- Containing an element which can be carried out of the collective worship to provide thought and discussion during the day and week.

### Responsibilities

The head teacher and staff are responsible for collective worship. Our daily collective worship is of a broad Christian nature and will be relevant to the ages and abilities of the children.

To reflect the schools vision, aims and values our collective worship will often be the clearest expression of our school's ethos to maintain an environment of Grace and Peace by encouraging the following values of:

- Hope
- Forgiveness
- Compassion
- Thankfulness
- Trust
- Friendship
- Perseverance
- Service
- Responsibility
- Courage

- Creativity
- Peace

### **Guidance**

- Collective worship takes place daily within a comfortable and stimulating environment lasting approximately 20 minutes.
- The school provides a variety of worship experiences, including whole school, key stage and class services lead by adults and the pupils themselves.
- Children are expected to enter and leave quietly, sit and behave appropriately and participate fully, in order to encourage reflection and develop spiritual capabilities.
- Different approaches are employed, including storytelling, drama, visual aids, artefacts and music.
- Prayer or silent reflection takes place and children's reflections are shared in the class reflection books and the whole school display.
- Outside visitors are positively encouraged to lead collective worship, in line with the school's policies and planning.
- Our practice includes the study of values, linked to a specific biblical story, over a half term and evaluation of our collective worship by staff, visitors and children.
- On a termly basis, each class produces and presents a worship session that introduces the Key Questions that are explored throughout the term.
- School will attend collective worship in the Church at Harvest and Christmas. Parents are invited to these special parts of the Christian year and actively encouraged to take part.

### **Right to withdraw**

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from Religious Education (RE) and collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending any RE or collective worship at the school, appropriate arrangements will be made for the supervision of the children. Parents do not need to explain their reasons for seeking withdrawal, however, to avoid misunderstanding, the head teacher will clarify with any parent wanting to withdraw:

- the religious issues about which the parent would object their child being taught
- the practical implications of withdrawal
- the circumstances in which it would be reasonable to accommodate parents' wishes
- if a parent will require any advanced notice of such issue in the future and if so, how much .

Approved November 2021

To be reviewed November 2024