



# Collective Worship Policy

Altwood Church of England School

John 10:10: 'I have come that they may have life and live it to the full'

I am known, I am valued, I will succeed.

<b>Approved by:</b>	Cath Harden (Headteacher)	<b>Date:</b> Dec 2024
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<b>Version</b>	2	
<b>Changes</b>		

## **THIS POLICY WILL HELP THE SCHOOL TO FULFIL ITS AIMS BY:**

- Offering opportunities for children to deepen their faith through prayer and reflection.
- Encouraging students to be open to new ideas.
- Providing a caring and reflective environment based on our Christian vision and values.
- Encouraging British values such as mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs, supporting and strengthening what we aim to do in every aspect of school life.
- Supporting the value we place on the development of the whole child, i.e. spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual growth.
- Offering the space and time young people need to develop a spiritual and reflective approach to life, to ponder life's big questions.
- Offering the space for young people to express their reflections in a way that is appropriate in a Church school setting.
- Promoting students' wellbeing and resilience.

## **THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS POLICY WILL BE TO:**

Through collective worship we aim to provide an inclusive, invitational and inspiring environment for young people to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community.
- Grow in understanding, respect and tolerance of other people and their beliefs, world views and values.
- Explore the language which people use to express their beliefs, world views and values.
- Deepen their sense of awe and wonder about the world around them.
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school.
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimuli.
- Acknowledge and celebrate diversity and learn from each person's life stance.
- Develop students' wellbeing and resilience.

## **TO FULFIL THIS POLICY THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM AND GOVERNORS OF THE SCHOOL WILL ENSURE THAT:**

- all registered school age pupils take part in a daily act of collective worship
- acts of worship are inclusive, invitational and inspiring, mainly of a broadly Christian character for and allow for an appropriate response without coercion.
- acts of worship are appropriate, regarding the age, aptitude and background of the young people involved.
- the faith background of both the staff and the young people is always respected.
- Acts of worship are creative and may include Art, music, dance, drama, storytelling, prayer and stillness.

## **Procedures:**

- Acts of worship are rooted in theology and offer an appreciation of the relevance of faith in today's world.
- There is a House assembly each week for every pupil in the school. There are occasional Year group assemblies throughout the year at key points in the school calendar.
- In addition, form tutors and their groups engage in 'Thought for the Term' reflections and spiritual time during morning registration.
- Acts of worship are also arranged for special occasions e.g. Remembrance, Christmas and Easter services.
- Staff, local clergy, youth workers, students or visitors lead assemblies each week. Students are encouraged to take an active part in both planning and leading acts of collective worship.
- The school year has been divided into weekly themes, which encompass religious festivals, national or international events, and themes and to develop the values of each individual, including British values of democracy, rule of law, individuality, respect and tolerance.
- An annual collective worship plan is developed and followed, and it includes the trinitarian nature of God and the teachings of Jesus.
- Every day includes an opportunity for the school community to reflect, pray and be still. These collective pauses allow the heartbeat of the school to be heard.
- Worship, personal development and spirituality are facilitated through the model of 'Ows, Wows and Nows' leading to deep spiritual and personal growth.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- The Headteacher is responsible for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body.
- The nominated member of staff is responsible for oversight of the annual collective worship plan and thoughts of the term. This is discussed by the Pastoral Leadership Group, which also provides an opportunity for Heads of House to give feedback about assemblies.
- Form Tutors follow the Theme of the Term reflections in tutor time, guided by resources which pose questions and opportunities for students to develop their spiritual understanding of the world around them.
- All Teaching Staff are required to attend Collective Worship unless they have formally withdrawn from them by putting their request in writing and meeting with the Headteacher.
- Parents of a pupil have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship the school will comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Headteacher.
- The Education and Inspection Act 2006 makes provision for pupils in post-16 education to exercise the right to withdraw themselves from the daily act of collective worship, but not from assembly.
- The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that parents are reminded on an annual basis of the content of this policy.

**DISSEMINATION:**

This policy is shared with all staff. This policy is available on the school's website for parents and the wider community to view.

**In planning worship, a range of resources are drawn upon, including:**

- Pupils' contributions
- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Drama
- Prayer/meditation/songs/ music
- Artefacts/natural materials
- Visual aids/focal points
- Dialogue/creative silence
- Visitors
- Contributions from our school Chaplain and visiting vicar

**SONG/MUSIC:**

Song/music is a very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the school community. When appropriate, music from a variety of cultures and types is used and selected carefully to match the theme.

**PRAYER/REFLECTION:**

- Prayer is a good way of enabling children to deepen their faith; students are not required to say or affirm prayers if they have a differing world view.
- Various forms of introduction to prayers are used to give young people the opportunity to participate if they so desire, e.g., 'And now in a moment of stillness, listen to the words of a well-known Christian prayer...'
- The use of regular moments of silence and reflection provides opportunities for young people to grow spiritually, connect and replenish their reservoirs of hope.