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## **Collective Worship Policy**

The collective worship policy at Langham Village School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the local authority through its SACRE. Collective worship is a valued and valuable part of school life and is taken seriously, because it shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

### **Aims of collective worship**

Collective worship in Langham Village School aims to provide the opportunity for pupils and staff to:

- experience a variety of styles of worship
- celebrate together e.g. festivals, school values, individual achievements
- build a sense of community
- develop a reflective approach to living which sometimes encourages understanding of and invitation to prayer;
- look beyond the physical, material and measurable
- worship God or reflect on human values;
- consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship
- feel safe and affirmed in doing any of the above

### **Statutory requirements**

By law, Collective Worship must

- take place for every child not withdrawn by their parents every day
- be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- take account of the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils
- take place on the school premises, except on occasions, with agreement of governors

Therefore, at Langham Village School our collective worship reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. Not every act of collective worship must comply with this; just the majority so we can include material from other religions and non-religious world views.

### **Collective Worship and the Curriculum**

Collective worship time is distinct from curriculum time given to any subject including religious education. However, in Langham Village School, we aim to enable collective worship and aspects of children's classroom learning to be mutually supportive.

Collective worship provides opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in line with school policy. To achieve this it addresses a wide variety of themes and topics, uses diverse stimuli and resources and provides pupils with opportunities to 'respond' at their own level.

### **The Management of Collective Worship**

The Headteacher is responsible for the provision of collective worship, supported by and after consultation with the governing body. The following arrangements exist to co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate collective worship:

1. HT draws up a rota for leading collective worship and themes for each week.
2. HT observes at least 6 acts of collective worship (from a range of formats) per term to ensure that they comply with school policy and the law.
3. Teacher, pupil and, where appropriate, parental views are collected annually to evaluate the quality and impact of collective worship and to identify ways in which it might be improved.

### **The Organisation of Collective Worship**

Acts of worship usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognized that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

### **Leadership**

Every member of the school staff, pupils and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

## **Planning Acts of Collective Worship**

The content of all acts of collective worship is considered carefully to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils, as well as the balance between Christianity and other faiths. Planning sheets list themes, special occasions and events, but there is flexibility to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues.

Visitors are welcomed to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy.

## **The Act of Collective Worship**

We use a variety of styles, active and interactive methods and a range of resources in our acts of collective worship. Leaders make decisions about these elements according to what is most appropriate to the content, the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils.

Where prayer is included in our acts of worship it is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to 'God' rather than Jesus as this is inclusive of the beliefs of our non-Christian religious pupils. We hope that pupils who prefer not to pray will use these moments to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Collective worship should not be confused with assembly. We often take the opportunity of pupils gathered together to share announcements and notices.

## **Withdrawal**

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship and staff are also free to withdraw from involvement in this aspect of school life. We request that those who wish to exercise this right inform the Head Teacher in writing so that school records are accurate. We also appreciate opportunities to speak with parents and staff who have concerns about collective worship, as we are always keen to develop our understanding of sensitivities and to overcome difficulties where possible. Pupils who are withdrawn from worship will be cared for by a member of the school's staff; parents may provide suitable activities for children who are withdrawn.

**Date of next review: May 2022**

**Date agreed by staff: May 2020**

**Date agreed by Governors: May 2020**

**Signed .....P Kossowicz..... Head**

**Signed .....D Markham Wroe.....Chair of Governors**