



# Kington St Michael CE School

## Collective Worship Policy Statement

### **Rationale**

Kington St Michael School is a Voluntary controlled, Church of England, non-selective primary school. As such, we are subject to the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988 and the Education Act 1993, as outlined in Circular 1/94 "Religious Education and Collective Worship".

Collective Worship in Kington St Michael CE School should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response through active involvement in the presentation of worship, or through listening to, and joining in, the worship offered; and, to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes (Circular 1/94 paragraph 50).

### **Aims**

- We want children to learn to develop an interest in, and have the ability to, reflect upon the world around them, including respect for individual and cultural differences and a personal appreciation of beauty and pleasure
- Help children to explore and share beliefs
- Consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence
- Encourage a sense of awe and wonder
- Express inner thoughts and feelings through art, story and music
- Foster respect for others and an appreciation of the importance of religious beliefs for many people
- Affirm school values and foster a sense of fellowship by bringing pupils together as a community
- Encourage pupils to actively reflect on their own experiences and the experiences of others
- Provide opportunities for celebration
- Share emotions such as love, hope, friendship, acceptance, fear, reverence, forgiveness, and trust.

### **The Character of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship at Kington St Michael CE School is "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character", as stated in the Education Reform Act 1988s 7(1) and Education Act 1993s 138(2).

However, we include in our acts of worship the traditions of other religions or elements drawn from a number of faiths. (Circular 1/94, paragraph 62).

Pupils who do not come from Christian families should be able to join in the daily act of collective worship even though this would, in the main, reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief - Education Reform Act 1988s.6(1).

Collective Worship at our school is related to the day to day life, the aspirations and concerns of our pupils and the school and seeks to preserve the integrity of all of our members. We come together to affirm and celebrate experiences of work to us all. Our collective worship is something special and separate from ordinary school activities and may be directly or indirectly concerned with reverence given to God.

### **Organisation and Content**

- We try, as a school, to create a worshipful atmosphere, by encouraging the children to be quiet and reflective before, during, and after Collective Worship.
- This may involve the use of props to focus attention (e.g. candles, models etc).
- We include time for "reflective thought" as well as prayer during Collective Worship.
- Collective Worship is generally led by one or more members of staff. Each week we welcome a visiting speaker in Collective Worship and these include Ministers and lay preachers.
- Collective worship is based on the Values for Life Scheme
- We record assemblies which have been undertaken and these records are kept by the Collective Worship co-ordinator.
- Collective Worship takes place every day in school

Monday: Whole school Collective Worship

Tuesday: Class Collective act of worship

Wednesday: Whole school Collective Worship with visiting church representative

Thursday: Music Assembly - hymns and songs are learned and practiced

Friday: Celebration Assembly - children's achievements are celebrated and reflected upon.

The link governor and subject leader with responsibility for Collective Worship will monitor and evaluate Collective Worship throughout the year.

### **Resources**

- A variety of Teachers' Assembly Books (stored in the Hall)
- A variety of books giving examples of prayers and reflective thoughts.
- Values for Life Scheme

### **Right of Withdrawal**

The Education Reform Act 1988 and the Education Act 1993 reaffirms parents' rights established in the 1944 Education Act to withdraw their children from collective worship if they wish. The act of collective worship in a LA maintained, voluntary controlled or grant-maintained school cannot be a condition of school attendance. If a

parent wishes their child to be excused wholly or partly from an act of worship then the school must comply. Parents do not have to state their reasons. The school continues to be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn by its parent from collective worship. Further guidance is given in Circular 1/94 paragraph 85/87.

All teachers also have the right not to participate in Collective Worship.

At Kington St Michael CE School, we ask for written notice of the parents' desire to withdraw their child from Collective Worship, addressed to the Headteacher. Children will be provided with supervision, but will not be given extra work to complete, in addition to what they have already been set by their class teacher.

Policy Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Approval Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Review Date: \_\_\_\_\_