St Cuthbert's Primary School Worship Policy

Vision:

In our family school, we strive to be the best for today, for tomorrow, for ourselves, for each other, the wider world and for God.

As a Christian family we nurture an understanding that we are all of equal value and infinite worth.

In the safety of our unique family we will flourish and grow towards being Global Citizens and Courageous Advocates.

('You are now citizens together with God's people and members of the family of God'. Ephesians 2:19)

Mission statement:

Learning to love, loving to learn in the family of Christ.

('Encourage one another and build each other up'- 1 Thessalonians 5:11)

1. Mission Statement

This school aims to provide its pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum set within a caring and supportive Christian community in which each member of the school is valued and is empowered to reach their full potential.

The leadership of Collective Worship is a distinctive role of the governors and head teacher. Collective Worship has to be in accordance with the Trust Deed and in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England. The Governing Body as a whole is responsible for determining the nature of Collective Worship provided in its school.

In Collective Worship the importance of inclusivity and dignity and respect for all is explored, as well as other themes and values that play a part in challenging all forms of prejudicial bullying, including HBT bullying and language.

At St Cuthbert's worship is based on a distinctly Christian Foundation, whatever form the worship takes within school it is underpinned by the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian Church.

These will include:

- the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- the nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though
- sinful, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the
- power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- the central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion
- and charity;
- the central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as
- a source of inspiration and guidance;
- the importance of prayer;
- the central symbols of Christianity;
- the cycle of the Church year.

2. Aims

- We introduce children to Christian worship and encourage active participation.
- We provide opportunities for spiritual development, developing a sense of awe and wonder.
- We provide opportunity to develop a relationship with God.

- We provide an atmosphere of trust and develop a sense of community within the school.
- We encourage the celebration and development of our school's values, ethos and achievements.
- We enable adults and children to worship together.
- We provide opportunities for silence, reflection and prayer.
- We give the children opportunity to know and understand the cycle of the Christian year, Christian festivals and symbols.
- We encourage the children to ensure that their own speech and actions reflects their Christian beliefs and values.

3. Legislation

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher.

4. Organisation

Worship supports the teaching in the RE curriculum but is distinctive. It is also should be distinguished from times when the school assembles for reasons other than worship, such as announcements and notices.

The current organisation for Collective Worship during a week at St Cuthbert's is as follows:
Monday – Whole School Worship- Worship Group
Tuesday – Whole School Singing Worship
Wednesday – Whole School worship led by Father Nick
Thursday – Class Worship
Friday – Whole School Celebration Worship with parents.

In addition every half term, we worship as school family at St Cuthbert's Church. In cases where weather disrupts this, the service takes place in the school hall. Parents and Carers are invited to attend this as well as the members of the community and church congregation.

5. Themes

The themes for each week are planned by the Collective Worship Leader in conjunction

with the Worship Group. To decide on the themes the leader uses the Christian Calendar, Christian values using the 'Roots and Fruits' resource, the current RE curriculum as well as taking into account festivals of other faiths and other important dates in the year such as Remembrance Sunday.

6. Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including singing practice. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and the staff member/ Clergy modelling how to pray out loud. Prayers are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. During this time the children reflect on the message of the worship and the impact on their own lives.

7. Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, show tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs which will be used as a stimulus for discussion and comparison with Christian beliefs.

8. Evaluating and reporting

Whole School Worship is evaluated by the teaching staff and a selection of pupils. These evaluations will be used to inform the development of Collective Worship in school. All PowerPoints from Worship are saved on the staff shared drive to enable access throughout the week/ year. The Leader is also responsible for reporting to the Governors on an annual basis, outlining the planning, evaluation and future development of Collective Worship at St Cuthbert's.