



# Collective Worship Policy



*“When two or more are gathered in my name, I am there among them”*

*Matthew 18:20*



### ***Growing Together in Faith, Knowledge and Love***

Our vision is based on the fact that we are all created in God's image, blessed with the power and wisdom to pursue excellence. Therefore, as a tree is recognised by its fruit, so our pupils will be recognised by the good they do in our world as they grow together in faith, knowledge and love.

This reflects the biblical texts of Matthew 12:33 and Colossians 1:10-11 which encompass our belief that each child is like a seed which, when nurtured, will grow into knowing and loving God.

***Matthew 12:33*** "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good... for a tree is recognised by its fruit."

***Colossians 1:10-11*** "So that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience."

## **Introduction: Our Vision and Collective Worship**

Our school is the good ground and the roots that allow all who come into contact with it to grow well. Its seeds (pupils, staff and community) are given a rich diet to thrive into the best 'plant' possible. Our seeds are cared for during all 'seasons', given support and protection when it is needed, and encouraged to flourish. The plants are strong and resilient, able to live peacefully and joyfully with those around them. The rich harvest is the end result of this labour for pupils, staff and the community – the brightest of futures.

Our vision is underpinned by our core Christian values of faith, knowledge and love. We believe that Collective Worship in our school has a vital role in promoting the Christian aims, values and ethos of the school expressed in this vision.

Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life. It enables us to join together in a daily act of worship to respond to the presence, power and peace of God through prayer, reflection, singing, and sharing and communicating our feelings. We believe that worship should enable our school community to develop an understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We hold regular services in church, following the rites, practices and doctrine of the Church of England.

The worship and prayer life of our school is not limited to a legal daily act of worship; we take opportunities to use prayer and reflection, and to develop our pupils' spirituality, throughout our school curriculum and our school day.

### **Aims:**

Collective Worship is a time to acknowledge, reflect on and respond to God; a place where we acknowledge the infinitely larger world we live in and are touched by its mystery and wonder.

Our pupils are given a sound foundation in knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith. Through knowledge, discussion and thought, pupils are helped to explore and define their own beliefs; consider spiritual and moral issues; and develop an understanding of themselves as key parts of our school and wider community. Our collective worship is based on the Church of England's Statement of Entitlement and Expectation which is inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

Our Collective Worship therefore aims to enable all pupils to:

- Understand what worship is and begin to develop their own relationship with God.
- Experience and participate in a caring Christian community, developing their self-confidence and a positive self-esteem.
- Develop their knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith, including Anglican beliefs and practices, and develop their own beliefs, values and attitudes built upon distinctly Christian foundations.
- Begin to understand and explore the nature of the Trinity, grounded in a detailed understanding of the Bible
- Celebrate the major festivals of the Church year.
- Learn the Lord's Prayer, the Grace and other appropriate prayers and responses.
- Develop the ability to be still and reflective and develop a sense of awe and wonder at creation and the gift of life.
- Explore important questions about life and creation, including areas such as love, truth, loss, suffering etc.
- Share the achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community in the presence of God.
- Explore and reflect upon the beliefs of other faiths through story and discussion.

### **Organisation and Delivery:**

In order to achieve the aims outlined above, we hold a daily act of Collective Worship, organised into whole school, key stage or class worship. Worship usually takes place each morning in our school hall. This prepares us for our school day as we join together as a Christian community.

### ***Gathering:***

We create an invitational, worshipful and spiritual atmosphere for our Collective Worship to take place which provides an opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Music is played as pupils enter the hall silently, to ensure that all pupils are aware they are entering a "special space" and to prepare them for this special time. A spiritual or thought-provoking image is often used to engage the pupils' interest and encourage them to reflect whilst waiting

for Collective Worship to begin. Once all of the pupils are gathered, our worship candle is lit, and the traditional Anglican welcome is used to signal the start of our worship time. We welcome one another “in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit” using spoken and sign language to begin our worship.

***Engaging:***

We aim for the worship they encounter to be inspirational and a time when the school community can explore big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. On Wednesdays, we hold spirit-led singing assemblies, including a variety of worship songs and often using live music. At Moreton we believe that Collective Worship should be an inclusive and engaging experience for all of the pupils, and our singing assemblies often include the use of sign language. Our pupils take the lead role in praying for one another, our community, and our world, in all of our acts of worship.

At Moreton we believe that our achievements should be seen within the setting of our Christian beliefs and values, and as a realisation of our God given gifts and talents. Each Friday, we therefore hold a special “Celebration Assembly” when pupils from each class are rewarded both for their achievements in lessons, and for showing Christian values in our school community. When commending our pupils for demonstrating a particular Christian value, we reward them with a “Christian value certificate” and sticker, which links directly to one of our Collective Worship half-termly values.

***Responding and Reflecting:***

Each Friday, in individual classes, we reflect upon our Collective Worship theme for the week. Using a stimulus such as a Bible story or linked text or video, pupils make their responses to a variety of questions which encourage them to explore how we can “live out” the Christian value or theme which our Collective Worship has been focused on. It should motivate pupils into reflecting on their behaviour and actions to make in difference in our world by becoming courageous advocates of causes. Through these reflections, pupils are also encouraged to make links to other Christian values and to think of their own questions which they would like to explore further. Sometimes our reflections also use stories from other faiths. Our weekly reflections are

presented in our Reflections Book, which is kept on our Collective Worship table in the hall, where they can be read by our whole school community.

An ordained member of our parish ministry team (usually Rev. Albert) visits our school each week to lead a Collective Worship session for the whole school. We are also beginning to introduce reflective prayer sessions for both pupils and adults in our school community, led by our parish ministry team. We visit our parish church, St. Mary's Moreton, once every half term, and pupils from various year groups take an active role in leading these services alongside the ministry team. Our services follow the Anglican service pattern closely, to enable the children to experience the key parts of an Anglican church service.

### **Planning:**

Planning for Collective Worship is led by the Headteacher and Collective Worship Co-ordinator, in consultation with Rev. Albert and our pupil Collective Worship Leaders. Our Collective Worship themes follow a two-year cycle, and are focused on exploring key Christian values: Generosity, Hope, Truthfulness, Love, Forgiveness, Perseverance, Courage, Wisdom, Thankfulness, Compassion, Friendship, Justice, Peace, Humility, Service, Trust and Respect. These values have been organised on our overview to link with the cycle of the Anglican year, and we celebrate all key Anglican festivals.

Each half term a particular value is explored and themes for each week are drawn up. British values are also often explored within our themes, and these are highlighted on our overview for the half term, along with a key Bible verse which grounds our Christian value in scripture. We include a weekly Bible story or other linked stimulus, along with key questions, for adults to use within their classes to enable our school community to explore and reflect upon our theme at the end of the week.

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator ensures that leaders, teachers and visiting speakers receive copies of the plans. Individuals and groups are responsible for using the plans as a basis for developing their own short-term plans for individual acts of worship. Training on planning and leading Collective Worship is provided by the Headteacher and Collective Worship Co-ordinator through staff INSETs, and all leaders have access to our Collective Worship planning structure.

Our Christian value and key Bible verse for each half term is displayed in each classroom on our “fruits of the spirit” tree displays. These link directly with our school vision, and are a key part of ensuring our Collective Worship themes embed our vision and are lived out in our school. A special value display is created in our school hall each half term, to focus our thoughts on the Christian value and Bible verse we are exploring, along with other relevant world-wide issues. This encourages us to think about how we can live out our Christian values in our daily lives.

We recognise that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area. Through Collective Worship, our children are encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, to consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, to appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, and to value their own culture and the cultures of others.

We encourage all of our children to learn each Bible verse off by heart, and we use sign language and/or songs to achieve this.

### **Anglican Faith and Practice:**

At Moreton C.E. Primary School we seek to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practise of the Church of England. We therefore use aspects of Anglican liturgy to create a framework for our worship: Welcome, learning, reflecting and responding. Our pupils are introduced to a variety of well-known prayers, including the Lord’s Prayer and Grace, and we plan time to explore these in detail in our acts of Collective Worship. Planning for Collective Worship is based upon core Christian values.

We encourage pupils to learn key prayers, our half-termly bible verse, and key responses found in the Anglican Book of Common Prayer, off by heart. We use Christian symbols as a focus for our reflection and provide opportunities for pupils to discover the value of meditation and silence. Our church services follow the Anglican service pattern closely, to enable the children to experience the key parts of an Anglican church service, such as the sharing of the Peace.

We encourage pupils to learn about the liturgical colours used at various points in the Anglican Church year and about the reasons for these. We use the correct liturgical colours on our Collective Worship table and prayer tables, and on our Collective Worship display in our school hall. We celebrate all key

Anglican festivals, and have a separate display in our hall which explores the church season, liturgical colour and key festivals within that season.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation:**

Monitoring and evaluation is carried out to enhance the Collective Worship within our school. Monitoring takes place in a number of ways:

- Personal evaluation by the worship leader
- Discussion with individuals or groups of children
- Discussion with members of staff.
- Children's responses to our weekly Collective Worship themes in our reflections book.
- Responses from our parent faith focus group.

### **Inclusion:**

Worship is planned so that it is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. Pupils will be at different stages of their spiritual journey and we take care in the language that we use to avoid assuming faith in all those participating, listening or watching. We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs when appropriate. As when teachers prepare lessons, worship leaders take account of different learning styles and aim to present materials using multi-sensory approaches.

### **Rights and Responsibilities:**

Our faith position is not confined to Collective Worship; it is also reflected in our vision, throughout the curriculum, and in the whole life of our school community. As established by the 1944 Act and reinforced through this policy, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. However, having chosen to send their children to Moreton Church of England Primary School, it is hoped that no one will exercise this right. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with the requirements of the Act.

## **Legal Requirements:**

We seek to comply with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) will, on each school day, take part in an act of Collective Worship.
- The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government, and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- All acts of Collective Worship in Church Schools must be Christian in character. Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, tutor groups, classes, or other combinations.
- Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils, in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds, and current world-wide issues or events.
- The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises but all schools are able to hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
- Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school rests with the Local Governing Body in consultation with the Headteacher. Governors have a particular responsibility because they are appointed to promote and uphold the ethos and values of the school. The Headteacher has a responsibility to ensure that all arrangements for Collective Worship are secured.

## **Resources:**

Staff have access to a range of assembly books (for example Values for Life and Roots and Fruits), and resources relating to each Christian value we explore and our themes for each week, along with resources to support the celebration of key Anglican festivals. We have resources to support live music for our singing assemblies and a range of both sheet music and recorded songs to accompany singing and reflection.

## **Review:**

This policy will be reviewed every three years.

Next Review Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*References: Collective Worship in church of England Shools: Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring. A statement of Entitlement and Expectation. Derek Holloway, March 2021*



Appendix 1: Overview of our Collective Worship Themes:



**Moreton Church of England Primary School**

**Collective Worship Christian Values Overview**

“When two or more are gathered in my name, I am there among them”

Matthew 18:20

Year	Autumn 1 Liturgical Colours: ■	Autumn 2 Liturgical Colours: ■ ■ ■	Spring 1 Liturgical Colours: ■ ■	Spring 2 Liturgical Colours: ■ ■	Summer 1 Liturgical Colours: ■ ■	Summer 2 Liturgical Colours: ■
<b>1</b>	<p>Creation and Generosity</p> <p>Bible Verse: “Sing and Make music in your heart; always giving thanks to God the Father for Everything.” <i>Ephesians 5 v 20</i></p>	<p>Hope</p> <p>Bible Verse:” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you might overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” <i>Romans 15 v 23</i></p>	<p>Truthfulness</p> <p>“Speak the Truth in the Spirit of Love.” <i>Ephesians 4.15</i></p>	<p>Love and Forgiveness</p> <p>“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” <i>1 Corinthians 13:13</i></p>	<p>Perseverance</p> <p>“Brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is right.” <i>2 Thessalonians 3.13</i></p>	<p>Courage and Wisdom</p> <p>“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” <i>Joshua 1 v9b</i></p>
<b>2</b>	<p>Creation and Thankfulness</p> <p>“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; his love endures forever.” <i>1 Chronicles 16:34</i></p>	<p>Compassion/Love and Friendship</p> <p>“Love one another as I have loved you.” <i>John 13 v34-35</i></p>	<p>Justice and Peace</p> <p>“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you.” <i>John 14:27</i></p>	<p>Humility and Service</p> <p>“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.” <i>James 4:10</i></p>	<p>Trust</p> <p>“Trust in the Lord with all your heart.” <i>Proverbs 3:5</i></p>	<p>Respect and Wisdom</p> <p>“Do to others as you would have them done unto you.” <i>Luke 6:31</i></p>