

# Clipston Endowed VC Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

This policy is based on the Diocese of Peterborough's exemplar policy



**Be Kind ~ Be Your Best ~ Be Happy**

### Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed by the Governing Body: January 2021  
To be reviewed – Spring 2022

Signed .....  
Mrs Helen Bellamy, Chair of Governors

## **Aims of the school**

Clipston Endowed VC Primary School aims to provide every child with high quality teaching and learning. It is the school's philosophy to give our pupils a measure of independence, a high level of self-confidence, a deep sense of self-worth, and an understanding and deeper appreciation of our Christian heritage. To achieve this, we aim to:

- a) Enable all children to achieve their full potential, both academically, socially, personally, and morally in order that children expect the best of themselves.
- b) Promote spiritual development and the ability to grow and flourish as human beings.
- c) Support children in building relationships which reflect Christian values.
- d) Deliver a broad, relevant and challenging education which is of a high standard and appropriate to an individual child's needs.
- e) Promote high standards of behaviour based on mutual trust and respect, developing responsibility and fostering self-discipline.
- f) Promote good citizenship, thus enabling individuals to make valuable contributions to wider society.
- g) Ensure equal opportunities for all.
- h) Provide a welcoming and stimulating learning environment in which everyone feels safe, happy and secure.
- i) Develop a sense of pride in belonging to Clipston Endowed VC Primary School.

To achieve these aims staff and governors will work in partnership with parents, carers and the local community for the benefit of all our pupils.

## **Rationale for Collective Worship**

At Clipston Endowed Voluntary Controlled Primary School, we understand worship to be a special time of day, the purpose of which is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves pupils coming together with a member of staff and participating in a daily gathering. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that collective worship should be wholly or broadly of a Christian character, we base most of this daily gathering on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we aim to conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of school and our wider community. Everyone is welcomed - those with a religious faith or affiliation and those with none.

## **Aims for Collective Worship**

Collective worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Clipston Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can;

- share common aims and values, recognising the Christian God and to reflect the Anglican traditions, but also to respect the traditions of others and the value and depth they bring to the world in which we live.
- explore together the world in which we live and foster a sense of wonder and awe at its beauty, mystery and power.
- allow reflection on the fundamental questions of life, common to all human beings.
- provide an opportunity for celebration and the sharing of successes and challenges in personal, school and community life, exploring emotions such as love, joy, friendship, fear, sadness, forgiveness and humility.
- provide the experience of being part of a caring, Christian community as a firm basis for preparation for life in the richness of modern Britain.

## **The contribution of worship to the school aims and objectives**

At Clipston School we endeavour to:

- help children understand the place that Jesus has in the hearts of those with a Christian faith.
- help children understand more of the world around them.
- help children make judgements and form opinions on important issues.
- to prepare children for the opportunities and responsibilities of adult life.

Assemblies are also used to sustain the natural curiosity of the children. We can surprise them, comfort them, challenge them and inspire them. They can help them to understand something of their place in the world regardless of their own religious beliefs or if they have none

## **The contribution of worship to children's spiritual and moral development**

The National Curriculum 2014 states that schools should provide "a balanced and broadly based curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral and cultural development of pupils".

**Spiritual development** .... the ability to develop and flourish as a human being.....

- be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values;
- foster a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them; use imagination and creativity in their learning; reflect on their own experiences.

**Moral development** .... the personal recognition of right and wrong.....

- readily apply their understanding of right and wrong in their own lives and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- understand the consequences of their behaviour and actions;
- understand that society's views change and that there are contentious issues where there is disagreement;
- contemplate and offer reasoned opinions about moral and ethical issues, and be able to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others.

At Clipston, collective worship is at the intrinsic heart of our distinctive church school. We provide an opportunity for children and staff to worship in a contemporary style but with traditional Christian refrains and responses, which is consistent with the traditional beliefs and practices of the Church of England.

## **Practicalities of Organisation**

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This gathering forms part of each morning assembly. The format for these gatherings is understood by all staff, and reviewed periodically.

- We endeavour to conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way.
- We tell children that assembly is special thinking time for calm reflection.
- We regard it as a special time and expect them to behave in an appropriate way.
- We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teaching and invite them to participate in prayer and songs.
- We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and a cross and candle that acts as a focal point for the attention of the children.

All members of teaching staff lead assemblies but usually on Mondays, it is led by the Head Teacher. Once a week, the class teacher leads assemblies for their own class. Members of our local church lead whole school and class assemblies from time to time and a range of visitors contribute to proceedings. This brings greater variety to our assemblies and strengthens links between school and the local church. Parents are invited to assemblies and other special services e.g. at Christmas, Easter. These events are held in our local church, and are planned and led by the children. This promotes the community spirit of the school. We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time. Other opportunities for prayer and reflection are given at lunchtimes and in classes at the end of each school day.

### **Content**

Assembly themes reflect the Christian Virtues we have chosen as a school. These are: Thankfulness, Kindness, Justice, Love, Forgiveness, Responsibility and Courage. The whole school assemblies encompass our Christian Virtues, to reflect The Church Year (e.g. Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost) and other key times (e.g. Remembrance Day, Fair Trade Week and Christian Aid week) as well as covering topical issues that arise.

We also hold Award Assemblies that reflect the achievements and learning of the children. These assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements recognised. At the end of each half-term, we encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing what they have learnt about each Christian Virtue to others and sharing ideas that they have discussed in their classes.

Worship in school usually follows a set liturgy beginning with the greeting: "May the Lord be with you" and response: "And also with you" during the lighting of the candle, which reminds us of the light that Jesus brings into our world. The Lord's Prayer is used, together with appropriate Bible readings and quotes. At the end of worship the member of staff leading the assembly (or a child) will say "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord" to which the children respond to reflect the Trinity: "In the name of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen" and the candle is extinguished.

### **Resources**

The Lion Storyteller Bible and The Lion Bible for Children are used as the regular source of Bible material to share with children. The Path That Runs by the Church book is used to frame our discussions around the church year. The Reflect on Values folder from Jumping Fish is also used as source material. Song words are kept electronically as PowerPoints on the staff drive. The curriculum budget which includes an allocation for Worship resources is reviewed annually by governors. Useful websites to be used include; [www.worshipworkshop.org.uk](http://www.worshipworkshop.org.uk) [www.barnabasinschools.org.uk](http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk) [www.imaginer.co.uk](http://www.imaginer.co.uk)

### **Evaluation, Monitoring and Review**

It is the role of the Governing Body to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. As part of this process, pupil interviews are carried out and external monitoring may also take place with Diocesan School Support.

### **Right of Withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend assembly and we highlight this with parents at the time of admission. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents can do so without reason. This complies with current legislation. The Head Teacher keeps a record of any children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.