



## Riston Church of England (VC) Primary Academy Collective Worship Policy

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of Respect, Trust, Community and Peace. Our Christian Vision states:

**As a family, together with God, we love, learn and grow.**

It celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Therefore Collective Worship at Riston Church of England Primary Academy is planned to

- to be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- will regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the schools core Christian values
- will have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- will help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
  - will challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection Stillness will contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to"
- will be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

Collective worship should be invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

### Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation. This policy is written with regard to the Church of England's Guidance for Collective Worship and the

## R.E. Statement of Entitlement 2019.

### Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus and handbook.

Parents should contact the Headteacher if they wish to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

### Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

Riston Church of England Primary Academy is committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to taking positive action in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school. This is followed in reference to the Ebor Academy Trust Single Equality Policy and Riston's Accessibility Policy.

### Planning Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by lighting a candle and saying our welcome words.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4 stage structure of planning including 'Gathering' 'engaging' 'responding' 'sending'. There should also be space for evaluation. A worship-planning group meets once a term led by the worship lead. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last terms Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term. The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the Collective Worship team and pupil voice surveys. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning, leading and monitoring of Collective worship.

The diocesan appointed governor has a role monitoring Collective worship through membership of the Collective Worship team at the school.

There are a number of resources available to form the basis of collective worship planning. 'Roots and Fruits' and Picture News are used to plan Collective Worship.

The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by the

Headteacher. Our pattern of Collective Worship

Whole School Worship is held daily and follows the format below:

Monday - Staff led worship using Roots and Fruits

Tuesday - Picture News Worship led by the Collective Worship Team

Wednesday - Clergy Led Worship - Open The Book Fortnightly / Teacher Led Worship

Thursday - Class Liturgy

Friday - Celebration Worship

Acts of worship generally follow themes that are linked to the school's vision and values and include the pattern of the church's year.

#### Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

#### Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship

Reverend David is involved on a regular basis with the worship programme. Other staff and pupils are given the opportunity of being involved in this programme every term.

#### Monitoring and evaluation

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our suggestion boxes and questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our full governing body during meetings and play and integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school.

Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York(SIAMS).

**Policy agreed by Board of Governors October 2023**