



## Lamberhurst St Mary's CEP (VC) School

### Collective Worship Policy

This policy will be reviewed every two years and at any other time if changes are required to comply with changes in legislation, regulation or national or KCC advice. Any amendments will require the approval of the full Governing Body. A copy is stored online in the Teacher Area of the school server.

Date of approval by Governing Body	6 December 2021
Signature of Chair of Governors	Mr P Edgesmith
Signature of Headteacher	Mrs C Bromley
Date Due for review	Winter Term 2023

## **Policy Statement for Collective Worship**

"To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God".

William Temple (1881-1894)

Our vision is that:

'Every child and adult at Lamberhurst St Mary's is able to be, and wants to be, the very best that they can be, because they have the opportunities and the support to do so.'

Our vision together with action can help to change the world not just our school, church and village community but far beyond.

We strongly believe that our children are our future and we have a responsibility as adults to guide them towards living life in all its fullness so that they may flourish within the supportive arms of our Christian School Values:

Community, Respect, Resilience, Aspiration, Honesty and Responsibility

### **Introduction**

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctive Christian character of our school, reaffirms our Christian values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England as well as other Christian traditions, and recognises and follows the Church's liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

### **Aims**

Collective worship at Lamberhurst St Mary's is in line with the school's Trust Deed and supports the school's Vision Statement, by providing opportunities for students and staff:

- to explore a relationship with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- to reflect on our explicit Christian values
- to develop personal spirituality especially through prayer, and also through a range of other experiences
- to be engaged in an exploration of the relevance and application of the Christian faith
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared Christian values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it.

## **The Anglican Christian Tradition**

The following may be described as shared Christian elements of collective worship:

- Using the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year - Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Saints Days
- Learning and saying Christian prayers from a number of sources, for example, the Lord's Prayer and the Grace
- Using simple Anglican liturgy at levels appropriate to students'/pupils' age
- Singing a wide variety of Christian hymns and songs
- Experiencing Christian symbolism in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles
- Using prayer, silence and reflection
- Celebrating the Eucharist/Holy Communion/Agape

## **Implementation**

Collective worship is a legal requirement. In line with the statutory requirement, a Christian act of collective worship is provided for all pupils every day. Teaching staff attend acts of collective worship. Time allocated to collective worship is not part of curriculum time.

There is a whole school Assembly worship on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Y2-6 Choir and Worship on a Thursday with YR & Y1 having Class Worship and Whole School Celebration Assembly and Worship every Friday.

There is also regular House and Class Assembly Worship throughout the year mostly led by pupil Worship Leaders.

Reverend Andrew, Reverend Roger, HT and Senior Leaders lead whole school Assembly Worship with regular visitors such as Family Trust visiting throughout the year.

The school uses the Diocesan Framework for worship together with '12 Baskets and SEAL' Resource for Thursday Choir & Class based Assembly Worship.

The Gathering, Engaging, Responding & Sending structure is used together with varying types of worship experiences e.g. prayer, music, silence, Bible reading, story, dance, puppets, DVD etc

Regular professional development is carried out in school and as part of the Rochester Diocesan support for HT's, Governors and Subject Leaders

Pupil Worship leaders set up and 'open' all collective worship by lighting our focal candle, leading the Anglican welcome and response and presenting our 'Prayer pebbles' as the focus for silent prayer and reflection. During the Spring Term each class takes

responsibility for leading an Assembly Worship for the school and their parents as a celebration of their learning.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Regular monitoring and evaluation takes place using monitoring guidelines provided by Rochester Diocese together with the school's own formats for recording 'Learning and Environment Walks'

### **Self-evaluation and Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)**

School Self-evaluation is completed using the SIAMS Self-evaluation criteria in the school's own format. Worship is inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act (SIAMS).

### **Parental Withdrawal**

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos our Headteacher requests that parents consider this carefully and invites parents to discuss this decision. As a point of information parents have never withdrawn their children from collective worship during the current Leadership of the school.