



# Offwell Church of England VC Primary School

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

**Our Core Values: Honesty, Loyalty, Caring, Sharing and Forgiveness**

**Reviewed: May 2015**

**Next review: May 2018**

### **Introduction**

At Offwell Church of England VC Primary we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children.

There is a daily act of Christian worship at Offwell School which reflects the customs and traditions of the Church of England and hence the Trust Deed by which the school was originally founded.

### **Rationale**

The fundamental principles and ideals of the Christian faith underpin and enhance the spiritual and moral development of our pupils and all that we do in our school life. School worship is an inclusive activity which affirms and celebrates the Christian values and ethos of the school.

### **Aims**

The central aims of Collective Worship at Offwell C E Primary are to:

- provide our children with regular opportunities for stillness and reflection
- promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; to enable pupils to experience a sense of mystery, awe and wonder
- to provide an opportunity for pupils to worship God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community and all who belong in it, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of our children
- help children develop an understanding; both of the nature and language of worship
- help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others
- support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication
- to develop inner awareness and a sense of spirituality
- to explore feelings and emotions in a challenging but secure atmosphere
- to allow the skills for worship to be acquired, practised and developed

School worship should reflect children's own experiences, and give opportunities for reflection, reverence, joy, sorrow, praise, thankfulness, compassion and peace. There is a planned programme (developed by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator) but there is also a flexibility of approach. There should be opportunity for response, involvement and participation. The language and content must be appropriate but also challenging.

### **The Legal Position**

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that collective worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils. Furthermore, acts of worship "must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, i.e. reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief." At Offwell CE Primary we have developed a range of themes and topics through which collective worship takes place. Key themes are based around our Core Values (which were developed after consolidation with the whole community; Spring Term 08) which are caring, sharing, loyalty, honesty and forgiveness, as well as other key Christian concepts, such as 'Fruits of the Spirits' Galatians chapter 5, verses 22-23. We believe these themes are clearly Christian in nature but are universal in their application. We recognise that in our school we have children from a variety of faith backgrounds and that some children and their families have no religious background at all. Great care is taken in our collective worship to ensure that all children feel valued and special and that their integrity as human beings is consistently upheld. Collective Worship at Offwell is an inclusive activity. Parents do have, of course, the right of withdrawal from Collective Worship. Parents who have any concerns about the provision and practice of our Collective Worship are strongly encouraged to contact the Headteacher, Mrs Billington.

### **Context of Collective worship**

In order to promote children's learning, our acts of worship vary in size. Our pattern is set out below:

Monday	-	Whole school (introduction of weekly theme) led by CW Coordinator or Headteacher.
Tuesday	-	Class Worship lead by individual teachers; guidance from CW coordinator
Wednesday	-	Wow Worship or Singing Practice
Thursday	-	Theme developed in St Mary's Church, led by parish vicar (or other visitor).
Friday	-	Whole school (conclusion of theme involving pupil's participation as appropriate) followed by weekly awards/celebrations.

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship. We have developed a range of resources to enhance children's learning. These include stories, music, slides, poems, pictures and posters and DVDs - all of which we hope contribute to a stimulating and thoughtful time for our children.

### **Other information:**

- All staff attend Collective Worship; to be involved with all aspects of the theme, so that it can be developed as appropriate in classes / around school during the week. This also demonstrates the importance of Collective Worship. Although staff do have a right of withdrawal
- Grace is said every lunchtime and every school day finishes with our special prayer
- Children assess and respond to collective worship, on occasions during the school year
- Governors, parents and community have an opportunity to evaluate collective worship (by completing a questionnaire) at appropriate times during the year - see school self- evaluating and monitoring plan
- Our Ethos Group monitors all assessments (by children, staff, Governors, parents & others) and meets termly to discuss planning of Collective Worship
- Headteacher/CW coordinator and local vicar meet regularly to plan 'special' acts of worship and occasions for the school. These include Eucharist services, Harvest, Easter, Confirmation classes etc
- Each class has a Collective Worship box - all resources in these were purchased by funds raised by the community (candle, Bible etc)
- Special Collective Worship display in main building - for whole school CW
- There is a Collective Worship budget for provision of resources /INSET as identified in action plan (found in School Development Plan)

### **Conclusion**

Collective Worship plays a very important role in our school as we seek to develop our children in the skills of reflection and empathy, to encourage and celebrate their talents and to promote their spiritual and moral development.

### **May 2012**

Headteacher and Collective Worship Co-ordinator: Claire Cowlard

Chair of Governors: Ian Piper

Governor with responsibility for Collective Worship: Gwyneth Harris

### **Reviewed April 2015**

Headteacher: Mrs A Billington

Collective Worship Co-ordinator: Mr C Thomas

Chair of Governors: Dr Phillip Ambler

Governor with responsibility for Collective Worship: Peter Walker