

# Sedley's Church of England (VA) Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy



**Approved by:** FGB

**Last reviewed on:** May 2023

**Next review due by:** May 2024

# A Policy for Collective Worship

The daily act of Collective Worship at **Sedley's Church of England Primary School** plays a central role in our life and work. All our worship is Christian reflecting the churchmanship of our Anglican parish church. It provides us with rich spiritual opportunities to reaffirm our vision, values and ethos. These moments help to strengthen our sense of community, belonging and inclusiveness and to reinforce the respect and care we have for each other. Through Collective Worship we strive to develop curiosity through questioning and encourage all involved to explore and articulate spiritual and ethical issues. We make a significant contribution to the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of those present. We want all our children to enjoy, reflect and act upon these experiences and Collective Worship provides a valuable vehicle for this.

## **Aims:**

- to provide children with a range of opportunities to worship God and develop spiritually (to grow closer to God and to deepen knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs and spiritual practices)
- to acquaint children with the liturgical practices, language and teaching of the Christian faith as exemplified in the Church of England
- to give children opportunities to reflect on the significance of Christian stories, events and festivals and how these might affect their lives;
- to teach respect for other faiths and religions
- to promote our shared values and contribute to our common life together by celebrating individual achievement, school achievement and wider community achievement within the context of Collective Worship.

## **Collective Worship and the Law:**

We comply with legal requirements by providing a daily act of Collective Worship for all children on the school roll, unless they have been withdrawn by their parent(s) 'on grounds of conscience'. It is expected that all teachers will wish to attend daily Collective Worship with their children but we recognise that teachers do have the right to withdraw from Collective Worship on grounds of conscience. In this case the teacher should ask to make an appointment with the Headteacher.

The Foundation Governors have a responsibility to uphold the Church of England foundation of the school, which applies especially to worship in the school.

### **Collective Worship and Parents:**

When a class or year group is involved in leading Collective Worship, parents are invited to attend.

We emphasise the importance of our Collective Worship programme in developing our school's vision, ethos and values and in providing a range of opportunities for children to consider important issues for life and living. Parents do however have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from the daily act of Collective Worship. Parents who wish to consider withdrawing their child(ren) are asked to make an appointment with the Headteacher. If a child is withdrawn from Collective Worship, they will be given an activity to complete and are reintegrated for any notices or presentations.

### **Leading Lights**

This group of children meet regularly with the Collective Worship leader to develop leadership skills and to provide a pupil voice regarding worship.

### **Collective Worship Organisation:**

There are various groupings and meeting places for Collective Worship during the week (see attached weekly rota). We organise the programme around Christian Values. It is the responsibility of staff leading the act of Collective Worship to ensure that the content and form of delivery is accessible for all those present. Collective Worship leaders need to ensure that over time the following opportunities are provided:

- A set structure to the act of worship: liturgical greeting, liturgy of the Word (eg. Bible reading and talk), prayers, liturgical ending (eg. blessing, dismissal)
- Set prayers, eg. The Lord's Prayer, the Grace, blessings
- Set Liturgical responses eg. 'The Lord be with you' , R: 'And also with you'.
- Marking of appropriate festivals and other significant days in the Church Year;
- A worship focus using the liturgical colours of the Church' Year
- Christian symbols such as a cross and candle(s)
- Including the Eucharist so that children gain knowledge and understanding of this central act at the heart of Christian life.

### **Use of Visitors**

The worship co-ordinator is responsible for liaising with any visitors who come into school to lead Collective Worship. Practical arrangements such as timing, age range of audience and appropriate content are agreed through discussion.

### **Health, Safety and Well-being**

In Collective Worship we follow the school's health, safety and well-being policy. For example, appropriate care must be taken when using lighted candles and electrical equipment. In line

with our 'Internet-safety' policy any internet resources used must be checked by the leader prior to their use in act of Collective Worship. In the event of fire all pupils must be familiar with exit routes from the halls and other areas of the school where Collective Worship takes place. Visitors are not left unaccompanied with children.

### **Equal Opportunities and Inclusion**

Collective Worship will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, ethnicity, religion and gender. During Collective Worship, religions will be presented fairly and accurately and diversity and equality will be affirmed.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

As part of the school's monitoring programme it is the role of the co-ordinator to monitor individual acts of Collective Worship and feed back. Governors who visit Collective Worship are invited to provide informal feedback to the co-ordinator or the leader. As part of our pupil voice policy a random selection of children will be asked to comment on their experience of and response to Collective Worship on a regular basis. All monitoring is regularly reviewed by the leadership team and governors in order to inform our self review (SIAMS).

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually.

May 2023

### **Sedley's CE Primary School Acts of Worship**

Monday	Whole school led by member of staff
Tuesday	Whole school led by Reverend Simeon Nevell or a member of staff
Wednesday	Class worship
Thursday	iSing Pop worship/singing worship
Friday	Celebration Worship