



***Let your light shine
(Matthew 5:16)***

Discover - Value - Celebrate – Praise

Collective Worship Policy

Formally adopted by the Governing Board of:-	Denver VC Primary School
On:-	10th May 2023
Chair of Governors:-	Carole Reich
Last updated:-	25th June 2020

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Introduction

This policy outlines the delivery, organisation and management of Collective Worship at Denver VC Primary School. It has been drawn up in accordance with the legal requirements for Collective Worship.

Aims for Collective Worship

- To provide an opportunity to reflect on the nature of God
- To promote the shared Christian values and common ethos of the school
- To foster a sense of awe and wonder
- To explore the spiritual dimension
- To help children explore their own beliefs and those of others
- To provide children with opportunities for prayer and worship

Planning for collective worship

The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered carefully to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. We follow a programme of extended monthly themes and Christian values which support the aims of the school and values which are shared by the Christian community. Our programme is flexible to allow the inclusion of special occasions, as well as current and topical issues.

Each act of collective worship will include time for thinking, sharing, listening and reflecting. We consider the elements to be the basic ingredients of any good act of worship.

We use the four part model of 'Gathering, Engaging, Responding and Sending' in our collective worship, with liturgical greetings.

We have chosen a set of Christian values (thankfulness, peace, wisdom, hope, tolerance, endurance, kindness, generosity, justice, compassion, forgiveness and creativity) which are the foundation of our school ethos. Each half term, we focus on one of these Christian values explicitly through Collective Worship, but also throughout our curriculum. Children will have regular opportunities to reflect on each value and to develop an understanding of each value in action. We celebrate children who demonstrate these values in our class reflection areas and in our celebration assemblies.

We have close links with St Mary's Church in Denver and special services are held in the church for Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

Every member of the teaching staff and regular visitors are involved in leading acts of worship. Visitors from other denominations, charitable organisations and the wider community will also be invited to lead worship as appropriate. Such visitors will follow

the school's guidance within our worship policy and details of the current theme for worship.

The Approach to Collective Worship

At Denver VC Primary we draw upon the experience of staff, visiting members of local churches and pupils. We aim to provide a variety of experiences to enable pupils to reflect on things which we as a school believe are important. These may include:

- Stories
- Drama/Mime
- Dance
- Poetry
- Music
- Art
- Personal experience

We acknowledge that our school community is not worshipping in the same sense as a local church. However, we provide daily acts of worship which we believe help children understand some of the features of worship in a believing community, for example:

- Praise
- Thanks
- Celebrations
- Sharing

Wherever possible, pupils are given opportunities to participate and contribute to collective worship. The law requires us to provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God as part of our collective Worship. This time may involve spoken prayers but can also be a time for each pupil and adult present to be quiet and think about what they have seen and heard, thus providing an opportunity for each to worship God if they wish to do so.

Organisation

Whole school collective worship is held four days a week in the hall between 2.55pm and 3.15pm. Class wellbeing assemblies are held every Wednesday.

To make the space special, a candle is lit to focus the children. A wooden cross is also used as a focal point. Music will be played during entrance and exit.

The school recognises that issues arising from the day-to-day events of school life as well as current affairs will need to be addressed as appropriate.

Children are expected to walk in and out of the hall quietly in their class groups.

Evaluating Collective Worship

The foundation governors have responsibility for monitoring the quality of collective worship. Pupils will also be involved in evaluating collective worship through monitoring activities using our Worship Ambassadors and 'Child of the Day' children.

Withdrawal

Parents may ask for their children to be withdrawn from RE and Collective Worship in accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act and the 1996 Education Act. Reasons for withdrawal do not have to be given.

Parents are advised of the current provision of RE and collective worship in the school, as required by law, and are asked to contact the Headteacher if they wish to exercise their right to withdraw and discuss their requirements. Arrangements for supervision will be made.