

# Sutton in Craven C.E (V.C) Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

May 2018- May 2021

*Flourish together, in the love of God, to live life in all its fullness.*



### INTRODUCTION

Collective Worship is for all pupils at Sutton in Craven CE Primary School. It usually forms part of an assembly or its entirety. It has the potential to unite the whole membership of the school and therefore to develop a sense of community. Collective Worship is a part of our school's contribution to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child. It is a time to celebrate the worth and value of every single person in the school community.

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all staff.

### AIMS AND PURPOSE

Collective Worship should be an activity that:

- Is educational and spiritually enhancing, underpinning the spiritual and moral education being given to children?
- Fosters a sense of fellowship by bringing the school community together.
- Offers children the opportunity to worship and creates an atmosphere in which those who wish to worship can do so.
- Encourages a reflective approach to life.
- Develops a sense of self-worth and value whilst fostering the ability to consider questions for which there are no set answers.
- Introduces children to aspects of religious worship and faith.
- Encourages children to express their responses in a variety of ways.
- Encourages children to recognise the place of a Christian faith in the life of people, particularly in the context of a church school.
- Helps children to develop a sense of awe, curiosity, wonder and mystery.
- Encourages children to be creative, questioning and imaginative, within a Christian framework. Also recognising the importance of experience, personal values and respect for the beliefs of others.

It should also:

- Affirm some value of ultimate worth, which for some, will be God.
- Celebrate in songs, hymns, readings and other ways.
- Respond collectively and individually through statements of belief, prayer, silence or reflection.

### OUR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

At Sutton in Craven CE Primary, we understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship involves all members of the school coming together. It involves a sharing of

individual experiences about living and responding to the world around. Collective Worship should be active, meaningful and seen as a special focus of the school day.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that Collective Worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we usually base our Collective Worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. This also reflects our status as a church school. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian based, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religions by, for example, celebrating certain festivals. We recognise that many themes covered are common to a number of faiths.

## **ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Collective Worship takes place each day. The Headteacher, Collective Worship Leader, staff, children, Revd Helen Collings or other visitors conduct acts of Collective Worship. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way.

**Monday:** Whole school Collective Worship usually led by the Headteacher at 10.20am.

**Tuesday:** Whole school Collective Worship usually led by school staff, the clergy or a visitor at 10.20am.

**Wednesday:** Whole school Collective Worship usually based on the 'Values for Life' scheme and led by school staff

**Thursday:** Class Worship

**Friday:** Awards Assembly (including an act of Collective Worship) at 9.05am with all staff.

- There are also special celebrations during the year, where a specified class or whole school leads the Collective Worship. These are held in the Church where possible or school hall and parents are invited, if possible.
- Some acts of worship involve the wider community where an outside speaker comes to highlight projects, needs and activities in which we may take part.
- The principles of Collective Worship are extended through children saying grace at lunchtime and a prayer at the end of the day from their class prayer books.
- Throughout the year, parents and friends of the school from our local community are invited to special celebrations such as Harvest Festival, Christmas Carol Service, and School Leavers Assembly. This is a practical demonstration of the way home and the schoolwork together to support the achievements of our children.
- We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

## **CONTENT**

We explore the half-termly Christian value during Collective Worship and develop this. These values tie together traditions of the Christian faith, Bible stories and wider school SEAL themes. Sessions, may on occasions, be planned to respond to events within school, or to a particular news item as it arises.

At the end of each act of Collective Worship, the value/theme, story and hymn or song used will be recorded. This will ensure that we provide a balanced range of experiences and stimuli for the children. Feedback will be used to make any changes for the following year.

Collective Worship and assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Sutton in Craven CE Primary School is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children.

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

The staff and Governors at Sutton in Craven CE Primary School are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from Collective Worship. Our school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing our common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes and values. It is about affirming the equality of each individual in God's sight, whatever a child's gender, ethnicity, physical and mental ability – 'every child of God matters everywhere'.

## **RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL**

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship however, parents have the right to withdraw their children. Parents wishing to exercise this right will be invited to discuss the matter with the Headteacher. Children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship will be supervised, however no other form of religious instruction or worship will be offered.

Teachers also have the right to withdraw from worship, but it is hoped that teachers will support Sutton in Craven CE Primary School as a Church of England Voluntary Controlled school and in so doing participate in school Collective Worship. Staff and pupils share together in worship in order to support the promotion of Christian values. This is discussed at interview.

This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

Evaluation strategies currently used for assessing the outcomes of Collective Worship are:

- Observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest demonstrated.
- Feedback from pupils
- Staff and Parent's comments
- Observations of the children's general behaviour in and around school and to one another.
- Feedback via School Council and/or other groups.

It is the role of the foundation governors to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship. The governors concerned liaise with the Headteacher and Collective Worship leader. Specifically, the 2 foundation governors will:

- Contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship.
- Provide liaison between school and church.
- Build relationships with pupils to enable them to articulate the value of being part of a Church School.
- Support the implementation of the school mission and aims statement.