



## Mordiford CE Primary School

### Collective Worship Policy

#### *'Treasure Each Individual'*

*You are a Child of God*

*You are wonderfully made,*

*Dearly loved, and precious in His sight.*

*Before God made you,*

*He knew you*

*There is no one else like you.*

*Psalm 139*

#### *You are a Child of God*

At Mordiford we are child centred and want every individual within our school to feel valued and loved by God.

We want to enable everyone to come close to God and learn about Him.

In essence to experience *'life in all its fullness'*

#### *You are wonderfully made*

At Mordiford we enable all children and adults to use the special gifts they have been given to achieve their full potential.

We take care of each other, our environment and the community in which we belong.

#### *Dearly loved, and precious in His sight.*

Children are loved and cared for at Mordiford with dignity and respect.

We love each other unconditionally and nurture the unique and precious in everyone.

We are a caring community that celebrates diversity, opens minds and develops aspiration.

#### *Before God made you, He knew you*

*There is no-one else like you.*

We recognise that we are all different and we value the differences between us.

We support each child's individual needs so they grow and flourish.

Learning at Mordiford opens children's eyes to the world.

## **Rationale**

Our school Christian Vision and Christian Family Values inform the policy and practice of collective worship in Mordiford CE Primary School. School worship is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian foundation values and ethos of the school.

Collective worship is understood to be an essential part of the life at Mordiford Church of England Primary School. It is the means by which the work, activities, the school family and the wider community, are offered to God through prayer, praise and celebration.

Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and will reflect the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. This will include belief in God the source of all being and life, belief in Jesus who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection and belief in the Holy Spirit who makes the presence of Jesus known in the world.

The ethos of the school is both underpinned and developed by the Christian values, teaching and reflection, which are encountered during times of worship. To this end, all aspects of the school life including the academic, social, recreational and pastoral, are part of our giving to God in worship and praise.

This policy should be taken and used as part of Mordiford C of E Primary School's overall strategy for Religious Education and implemented within the context of our vision, instrument of government aims and our values as a Church of England School.

## **Aims and Objectives**

The school's respect and commitment to Collective Worship reflects its commitment to God and His Church and reflects its Church of England status and the Trinity.

Mordiford school's aims for collective worship are:

- To provide the opportunity for the school community to worship God
- To consider spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues
- To enable individuals to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response (active and/or passive)
- To develop community spirit
- To promote and express the school ethos and shared values
- To reinforce positive attitudes

Through collective worship in our school we aim to:

- Provide an experience of worship that will allow children to respond to the presence, power and peace of God.
- Introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to some well-known Christian prayers, e.g. Lord's Prayer.
- Strengthen and support the school community giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school.
- Celebrate the gifts that each child brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of everyone made in the image of God.
- Encourage children to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around them.
- Foster a concern for others within the school and wider world.
- Foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.

### **Legal Framework**

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils which takes account of their age and aptitude. (Education Reform Act 1988). Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. Since this is a church school however, worship is central to its life and work and is regarded as an especially important part of children's education.

This policy is consistent with the Christian foundation of the school. It considers the worship guidelines, "Church School Leadership- a handbook for

head teachers of Church of England School. It is also based on the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

### **Elements of Worship**

The three elements of worship: affirmation, celebration and response are included in our daily acts of worship.

Affirmation provides the children with the opportunity to affirm some value of ultimate worth, such as the importance of each person, which for Christians would be expressed in the image of God.

The act of celebration is designed to mark what is affirmed through music, drama, reading, dance or acknowledgement of effort or achievement.

Response is encouraged either collectively or individually through prayer or silent reflection.

### **The Daily Act of Worship**

Worship is held at 9am Monday to Thursday and lasts twenty minutes. On a Friday, the Celebration worship starts at 2.30pm.

Every week we hold four whole school acts of worship, emphasising the unity of the school, and one Key Stage based act of worship led by the RE subject lead. Class teachers also tailor class worship more to the specific needs of different age groups when they are not attending the KS worship.

Our local Church of England vicar leads regular acts of worship and others are led by the head teacher and other members of staff.

Children are also encouraged to lead all or part of the worship or may contribute with readings or prayers.

Our Worship Crew often plan and lead worship for the whole school or Key Stages or classes.

Worship is held in the hall, where there is a wooden cross as a focal point and candles are lit to represent the Trinity at the start of each worship. We have cloths on the worship table in liturgical colours (see appendix), mirroring the church year.

Music is played as children enter and leave the hall to encourage an atmosphere of reflection.

The Lord's Prayer is recited regularly, along with our school prayer – Psalm 139.

A wide range of approaches are used in worship, including drama, discussion, reflection, reading, film, images, singing and prayer.

The pattern of the Collective Worship is:

Monday led by head teacher- weekly theme/Christian Family Value

Tuesday led by RE lead – key Stage worship (alternate weeks)

Wednesday led by staff – whole school worship

Thursday led by music coordinator & staff – singing worship

Friday led by headteacher & staff – celebration worship

Each class participates in a class prayer in the hall at the beginning of the lunchtime and in classrooms at the end of the day. These class prayers are often written by the children and displayed in the classroom

Throughout the year all classes lead ‘Class Worship’ either in school or Holy Rood church where parents, family and friends are invited to join us.

**Worship in the wider community**

Whenever appropriate, children should have the opportunity to worship alongside members of the wider community.

The children also attend services in Church each year. These can be for a specific theme eg: KS2 carol service, Harvest Festival, Easter, Christingle, Holy Rood ‘birthday’, EYFS/New families welcome service and a remembrance service. The local incumbent/chair of governors attends when at all possible. We also have regular acts of worship in Holy Rood church such as end of term services, Y6 Leavers service and termly whole school worship

Year 6 children attend the Leavers Service at Hereford Cathedral to celebrate their time in Primary Education.

The school regularly welcomes Rev. Moore (school governor and incumbent of Holy Rood Church) to lead worship in and out of school.

## **Themes**

We have adopted twelve Christian Family Values that form the basis of our worship and wider school life;

**Love, Joy, Hope, Equality, Trust, Freedom, Togetherness, Resilience, Appreciation, Wisdom, Generosity, Faith**

Each value is looked at for half a term and most worship is planned around this value, as well as being promoted throughout the school. Care is taken to ensure that understanding of each value is rooted in the Bible and the example of Jesus.

We have added in significant dates in the Christian year and days of importance such as Remembrance Day. We are also able to respond to local, national or world events (or a need from the children), that merit reflection and prayers.

## **Outside Speakers**

Occasionally outside speakers may be invited to address or lead an act of collective worship. Before leading or addressing an act of collective worship outside speakers will be given the opportunity to read this statement on collective worship. There are guidelines for outside speakers available in the school office.

Visiting speakers must sign into school and wear a visitors' badge. They will be accompanied by another member of staff and should not:

- a) preach controversial doctrines or political opinions
- b) invite children to attend meetings outside school without the permission
- c) raise money unless it has been agreed prior to the assembly and with the full consent of the head teacher.

## **Resources**

A range of resources are available to all staff in the Severn Suite, including the 'Fruits and Roots' book 1, prayer books, Collective Worship books, prayer resources, artefacts, coloured cloths and candles etc.

## **Role of the Collective Worship Lead**

The Collective Worship lead is responsible for supporting staff in their planning of worship where necessary. The lead is also responsible for organising rotas, class worship themes etc, replenishing resources and for monitoring all aspects of worship within the school.

## **Evaluation of Worship**

The Collective Worship lead monitors whole school acts of worship throughout the year, alongside the head teacher, governors and Worship Crew. A record of worship is kept in a folder in the Severn Suite and staff are expected to complete.

From time to time parents and pupils are asked for their opinions through a questionnaire, in discussion groups and their views are considered in future planning of worship.

## **Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

Parents may ask for their child to be totally or partially withdrawn from Collective Worship in accordance with the Education Act. They are advised of this right in the school prospectus and asked to contact the head teacher to make arrangements. No reason has to be given but discussion with parents over the issues concerned is recommended in circular 1/94. All staff also have the right to withdraw from collective worship.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the spirit, aims and practice for collective worship at Mordiford C of E Primary School are captured in the DfEE circular 1/94, paragraph 50 which states,

“Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to Worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining

in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive values.”

As a Church of England School, the ethos and spiritual dimension of collective worship, will be Christian in particular. Above all, collective worship is understood to be an integral and essential feature of school life and serves to inform and offer to God all that is good in the life of the school.

## **Review**

**Link Governor:**

**Collective Worship Lead:** Mrs H Broadbridge

**Headteacher:** Miss K Finney

**Date:** May 2020

**Review date:** May 2023

## **Appendix**

### **Liturgical colours**

#### **White:**

- From Christmas Day to the Presentation at the Temple (beginning of Feb)
- From Easter Day to the eve of Pentecost.

#### **Red:**

- Holy week; Pentecost; All Saint’s Day (beginning of Nov) to the beginning of Advent.

#### **Purple:**

- Advent: Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday

#### **Green:**

- From the Presentation (beginning of Feb) to Shrove Tuesday; from Pentecost to All Saint’s Eve (end of Oct)