



## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

A Christian ethos lies at the heart of Felton C of E Primary School and woven throughout our curriculum are opportunities for the children to develop the self-esteem and positive social and moral values to enable them to become their best selves.

### **1 Rationale:**

Collective Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and as a Christian community, we promote an appreciation of the Christian way of life and of religious belief. Children are helped to develop personal and moral values, to show respect for other people and their way of life and an awareness and appreciation of the wonderful world we have been given to live in and care for. It is an opportunity to celebrate and support all aspects of school life and to provide time for stillness and reflection.

We recognize that in our school we have children from a variety of faith traditions, including those who have no faith background at all. Great care and sensitivity will be taken to ensure that all our children feel valued and special.

### **Aims:**

The Worship is central to our school day. It is a special time where we can listen, think, participate and enjoy being one of God's children. It aims to give pupils and school staff alike the opportunity to:

- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- Foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it

### **Legal Requirements**

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that collective worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils. The religious foundation of Felton C of E Primary School is Church of England and the daily Act of Collective Worship is delivered in accordance with the principles and practice of the

Church of England. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the Daily Act of Worship. A parent wishing to do so will need to make a written request to the Head teacher. The Head teacher will keep a record of all children who have been withdrawn from Collective Worship.

### **Organisation of collective worship**

Collective Worship is a special time which is shared by the whole school. An appropriate ambience is created by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

Collective Worship themes are planned each week based around events in the Christian year and themed weeks around the Christian Values. The themes for each term are shared with staff and visitors.

There is flexibility in the planning, so that national or international incidents, or local circumstances affecting members of our community, can be considered in a sensitive manner where appropriate.

At Felton C of E Primary School, we encourage the children to actively participate in worship.

Collective Worship provides an opportunity for children to celebrate their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and achievements are recognised.

Governors and parents are welcome and are encouraged to attend and participate in Collective Worship.

Special celebrations are held during the school year, linked to Church festivals and school events to which parents and visitors are invited. These celebrations held in St Michael's All Angels Church and include Harvest, Christmas, Easter. Our Leavers' service is held at Brinkburn priory.

Collective worship is led, planned using our agreed termly overview and then evaluated by all staff on a weekly rota basis. We have a rota of visitors from the Church and local community who lead Thursday's worship.

### **Monday – Celebrating our 'Stars' and Worship through song 9.05am**

We celebrate individual successes from the previous week, discuss aims and ambitions for a new week of 'Loving Learning and Living' together and set the scene for the week's worship theme. All teaching staff to attend.

Children are informed of the linked Christian value which will form the basis of 'Star of the week' for the coming week.

Monday's worship includes at least 2 hymns and reference is made to the passage from the Bible which is the starting point for the week's theme and is read by one of the children and then displayed in the worship area of the hall.

### **Tuesday and Wednesday: Continue and develop the theme 9.05am**

The scene is set for the week by introducing the theme with a story or activity. Music may be introduced to continue the theme. The lead teacher will then take 2 (or 3 days if there is no visitor)

to engage and focus the children on key questions and ideas linked to the identified theme. There is no requirement for staff to attend.

#### **Thursday – Visitor worship 9.05 am**

All our visitors get to know of the theme for the week well in advance and the corresponding Bible reference if they wish to use it. All staff to attend.

#### **Friday: Class based Worship 10.00am**

This is new for September 2017 and forms part of our actions towards Key Strand 16 as identified in our Strategic Development Plan for 2017-9

This is held in classrooms and currently each class teacher leads the children in pupil worship in groups (EYFS, KS1 and KS2). Fridays worship is a chance to reflect and discuss ideas and thoughts from the week's worship with children of a similar age. Our aim is that the children will take an increasing responsibility to lead worship in their groups as the year progresses.

Children to lead the Class worship will be chosen the previous Friday and encouraged to come up with their own take on the weekly theme – perhaps with a reading they have prepared, artwork to show/share or prayers they have composed. This policy will be reviewed in the Spring term to reflect the impact of this initiative.

#### **6 Monitoring and review**

Collective worship is evaluated each day and this evaluation is used to develop the planning of themes and delivery of Collective Worship. Foundation Governors regularly monitor and join in with worship and write a report on their visits.

**This policy was last reviewed December 2017**