

**Yatton Church of England Junior School**  
**Collective Worship Policy**

Document Information			
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	PQA	<b>Responsibility:</b>	PQA
<b>Last Review:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	<b>Next Review:</b>	May 2018
<b>Review Cycle:</b>	Annually	<b>Ratified by FGB</b>	Not required
<b>Signature (FGB)</b>	Not required	<b>Signature (Head)</b>	Not required

**All children will take part in a daily act of collective worship which is most often broadly Christian in character, i.e. reflecting the traditions of Christian beliefs in keeping with the terms of the 1996 Education Act and the School's Trust Deed**

**1. Rationale**

- To develop a sense of the school as a community within a wider community;
- To provide a quality shared experience, creating an atmosphere where reflection and sharing of ideas, values, experiences and understanding is encouraged;
- To allow children to have opportunities to reflect upon their own place in the world;
- To foster relationships with local faith groups – particularly local church denominations.

**2. Aims and Objectives**

- To provide the children with a separate part of the day when they can reflect on collective expressions of joy and sadness, thankfulness, need and to share concerns and experiences;
- To foster a school ethos of respect for others, and of caring and sharing;
- To introduce and foster spiritual awareness;
- To develop an increasing awareness of the Christian calendar, and other significant festivals from other major faiths;
- To foster an understanding and appreciation of fundamental Christian Values;
- To fulfil the legal requirements.

**3. Guidelines**

A typical weekly timetable for Collective Worship would be:

<b>Monday</b> Whole school collective worship (led by Headteacher).
<b>Tuesday</b> Upper School Collective Worship in hall; Lower School in classes
<b>Wednesday</b> Lower School Collective Worship in hall; Upper School in classes
<b>Thursday</b> Worship through Music (led by Music coordinator)
<b>Friday</b> Whole School Collective Worship (led by Deputy Headteacher) including fortnightly celebrations of learning and achievements (both personal and academic).

- Each term, collective worship is planned around a rolling programme of Christian Values and includes key religious festivals and Saints days.
- Candles are often lit during collective worship to signify a special time, to help focus attention and reflection and to reinforce the candle as a symbol of Jesus being the light of the world in Christian belief.
- Other Christian symbols, such as a cross, are displayed which help to signify that this is a Church of England School.
- Collective worship includes, at different times: singing, music, a time for reflection, discussion and prayer. Prayers may include the Lord's Prayer or other prayers, including those created by the children.
- When prayers are used in collective worship, they will be worded so as to be understandable to the ages of the children present. Children will be invited to join in or reflect upon the words and message. If they wish to, children can respond to a prayer with Amen. Prayers used should not alienate children or adults from differing denominations or faiths.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship, after consultation with the Headteacher.
- Visitor assemblies are very much appreciated, valued and welcomed. These will include assemblies from ministers from the local places of worship in the village.
- Celebration collective worship is an opportunity for the whole school to celebrate achievement (both personal and academic).
- High standards of respectful behaviour are expected during times of collective worship. Children are expected to enter and leave a collective worship time in a sensible and respectful manner; calm music will often be played to facilitate this.
- There is an expectation that staff will be present during whole school Collective worship.
- Children are regularly encouraged to be involved in collective worship by reading prayers, acting, singing and general participation.

#### **4. Guidelines for Visitors**

- We try to enhance our programme of Collective Worship through the participation of visiting speakers from a range of different backgrounds. Some may be representatives of charitable concerns, or environmental groups. Visitors from various professions or interest groups, as well as those from different cultures and of different religious affiliations, are welcomed.
- Visiting speakers can provide pupils with a fresh voice and possibly a fresh perspective on issues relevant to the pupils' lives, as well as their spiritual and moral development. Your support is greatly appreciated.
- Collective Worship takes place in the School Hall. Please arrange with us in advance which pupils you would like to benefit from your worship.
- In recognition of the School's Church of England foundation, we have a small altar with a cross and a candle at the front of the hall.
- Music will be playing (you may bring your own CD if you want something particular). Children will walk in silently with their teachers. They will sit on the floor in rows facing the front (youngest at the front, oldest at the back). They will listen to the music until all are present and the Collective Worship can begin.
- At the end of the Collective Worship, a pupil will start the music; children will stand and file out in silence, as directed by a member of staff.
- Collective Worship should last for approximately 15- 20 minutes.
- It is expected that school staff will sit in the hall with you and the pupils.

#### **5. Monitoring**

It is important that Collective Worship is monitored and evaluated to ensure that they are of a high standard and of relevance.

Foundation Governors and staff will evaluate the impact and appropriateness for pupils through pupil conferencing, on regular occasions.