



# Collective Worship

(Policy and Procedure for collective worship)

Signed by:	
Head Teacher	
Chair of Governors	
Date Adopted	
Date of Review	September 2017

## **PHILOSOPHY**

St Egwin's Church of England Middle School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to be a family and to reflect upon Christian values. It is attended by pupils, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

At St. Egwin's school we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to develop our pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

We understand that we are part of a society that is changing. Life in Britain today is increasingly more secular but also a place where faiths live together, usually in harmony but sometimes not. As a Church of England school, we try to educate and inform our children and also teach values that will support our children as they go through life.

## **AIMS**

It is our aim at St. Egwin's Church of England Middle School that worship should:-

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of concern and value to human beings
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity respond to Christian language and symbolism
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to take part in prayer and reflection.
- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

## **LEGAL STATUS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Acts of worship reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to school worship, special celebrations take place in Church.

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. The school accepts the desirability of this legislation but has some practical difficulties in meeting this requirement. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

To provide pupils with variety in their experience of worship. Acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or school groups.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Headteacher.

By broadly Christian in this school we mean that:-

- Worship contains some elements which accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions
- Sharing with pupils the Christian belief that all Christians are called to explore key Christian concepts such as love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.
- Acts of Collective Worship at St. Egwin's Church of England Middle School take into account the Pupils' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

## **RIGHTS OF WITHDRAWAL**

At St.Egwin's Church of England Middle School we seek to be an inclusive community. However, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the headteacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

## **WEEKLY WORSHIP PATTERN**

Monday	Whole school in the sports' hall, led by SLT and Reverend Spurr.
Tuesday	Form Worship ( Reboo Digital Assemblies)
Wednesday	Whole school worship led by forms, Open the Book (Sarah Hewlett)
Thursday	Reflection time in forms, pupils reflect in a number of ways including journals, thoughts for the week
Friday	Achievements Assembly (Main Hall)

## **PLANNING, RECORDING AND EVALUATION**

The collective worship coordinator is responsible for creating a termly calendar with themes and the names of colleagues who will lead collective worship. However, the collective worship co-ordinator may choose to deviate from the programme when the member of staff leading the worship has a particular interest in another theme. Similarly, special events, items in the news may also trigger a deviation from the programme. The Reboo programme is used as a basis from which to work.

Collective worship is planned by the member of staff leading it. A folder is kept. Evaluation takes the form of feedback from pupils and staff.

The content and methodology of Collective Worship is varied. The aim is to engage pupils in a thought provoking issue that has a basis in Christian values. The importance of Christianity in our culture – art, music, literature – is also recognised in collective worship and the school's ethos.

One of the school's foundation governors, Reverend Andrew Spurr, monitors collective worship within the school.

## **RESOURCES**

The Headteacher holds the budget for Collective Worship.

## **STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY**

It is the policy of the school to invite visitors into school to lead and join our Worship. The school also encourages pupils to demonstrate the Christian character of the school by helping and serving others inside and outside the school. The school supports charities each year. The school has an established link with Dumila Primary School. Pupils from the school go out into the local community to help other people. Such work includes Caring Hands (meals for the homeless/unwaged), animal sanctuaries and entertaining the elderly.