



## Egton Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

### Policy for Collective Act of Worship

<b>Effective Date:</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2014
<b>Date Due for Review:</b>	June 2016
<b>Approved By:</b>	Governing Body
<b>Approval Date:</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2014

#### Rationale

Worship is central to the daily life at Egton CE Primary School. Worship inspires all members of our school family to live their lives through our Christian Values.

Personal prayer, reflection and spiritual well-being are encouraged and valued together with the knowledge, understanding and practice of Anglican traditions and faith.

Worship in our school aspires to be an enriching and enlivening experience.

Our school mission statement is:

*Our mission is to inspire learning and develop children's potential as individuals in a caring, happy and distinctively Christian family.*

Collective worship has a distinct and special time in the day. As part of our Collective Worship content will include:

- Events in the church year
- Central symbols of Christianity
- Importance of prayer
- Central place of the bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance
- Christian values

During our school day there are other distinct times of prayer such as beginning and end of the day and the lunchtime grace.

#### Aims

- To enable children to explore a variety of forms of worship, so that those with a religious faith may have their experience of worship deepened and broadened and so that those without faith may begin to **GROW WITH GOD**
- To develop a sense of community within our school family and of being a part of a wider community – locally, nationally and globally
- To celebrate achievements and special occasions.

*Learning and Growing Together with God*

- Offer opportunities to worship God and share Christian stories.
- To offer opportunities for reflection, prayer, music, drama, symbols and silence.
- To offer opportunities for children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To underpin the Christian values and ethos of our school.
- Be inclusive and aim to respect each individual's integrity.
- Reflect on some of the practices and traditions of the local churches (Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic) and celebrate festivals in the church year
- Be engaging, inspiring, enjoyable, enriching and enlivening

**The Head Teacher will:**

- Ensure the centrality of worship in the life of the school.
- Allocate appropriate time for collective worship.
- be responsible for co-ordinating collective worship
- Set high expectations and monitor the quality of provision for collective worship.
- Support individual teachers and others delivering Collective Worship, enabling them to attend appropriate training.
- Lead the school community in acts of worship, celebrations and reflections and prayer.
- Distinguish Collective Worship from notices and 'assembly'
- Organise occasions when worship takes place in church
- Ensure a worshipful atmosphere be created and sustained
- Give opportunities for parents and governors to attend
- Foster and promote strong links with Parish Clergy and church communities

**The Governors will:**

- Appoint an RE Team to monitor and liaise with the headteacher over Collective Worship
- Ensure that the legal requirements for worship are met.
- Be well informed and encourage the development of collective worship through the leadership of the headteacher and co-ordinator for Collective Worship.
- Support the staff in implementing the school's policy for Collective Worship.
- Monitor Collective Worship through the Governor of the Month (when possible) and the RE Team
- Monitor and review progress and provision enabling, through the school budget, sufficient resources to be available for the provision of excellent opportunities for Collective Worship.
- Appoint staff who are actively supportive of the aims and ethos of a church school.
- Familiarise themselves with the mission, aims and values statement and ensure its implementation.
- Protect the centrality of worship to the life of the school.
- Ensure the school's worship reflects its Anglican heritage.
- Encourage links to be made with the local churches and clergy.
- Contribute to the school's Ethos Big Book

**The Co-ordinator (Headteacher) will:**

- Lead by example showing an enthusiasm and understanding of Collective Worship.
- Offer support to teachers in planning, teaching and assessing.
- Work alongside the RE team to monitor and evaluate the quality of provision and planning.
- Identify, plan and develop in-service training needs and facilitate the sharing of good practice, information, initiatives and developments in RE.
- Manage and co-ordinate resources for collective worship.
- Ensure that the school's worship will reflect its Anglican heritage.
- Be on hand to assist and advise visitors and clergy when leading collective worship.

- Enhance the educational value of worship and possible links made with other areas of the curriculum.

**The Teachers will:**

- Follow the Annual Long Term Plan for Collective Worship
- Use the resources from Christian Values for Life as the starting point for worship
- Use the outstanding Worship Planner when being observed
- Place planning in the CW File and keep up to date records
- Ensure that the correct amount of time is given to Collective Worship.
- Use relevant up to date and stimulating resources.
- Ensure that children of all abilities have access to worship and know that they are special.
- Encourage positive attitudes towards Collective Worship.
- Use the Diocesan guide “Worship Works” as a guide to help learners understand Anglican practice and faith.
- Give children a range of experiences of worship, for example, stillness, quietness and time to reflect, as well as singing, celebration, wonder and time to respond.
- Encourage links with local churches and visiting speakers, local parishioners and the wider church.
- Monitor and evaluate worship experiences.
- Nurture Christian values that impact on children enabling them to flourish.
- Use resources from other cultures and religions to enhance worship.
- Respond to worldwide, national and local events to help children come to terms with them, as well as issues which arise in school.
- Attend Collective Worship at whole school level

**The SENCO will:**

- Support the Worship co-ordinator in including children with special educational needs to participate fully in acts of worship.
- Keep up to date with resources and ensure that members of staff are made aware of any relevant information relating to children’s special needs or anxieties.
- Implement intervention strategies when necessary.

**Children will be encouraged to:**

- Enjoy times of Collective Worship and have a sense of belonging.
- Actively participate in Collective Worship
- Be given time for personal reflection and response.
- Have opportunities to experience awe and wonder.
- Celebrate Christian values and the worth of the school family
- Explore and evaluate their own beliefs, consider their innermost thoughts and feelings.
- Celebrate special occasions and seasons in the church’s year.
- Reflect on the needs of individuals through prayer.
- Have positive social relationships.
- Derive inspiration and affirmation from worship.
- Contribute through reading, singing, drama and prayer.
- Respond willingly, listen and participate.
- Recognise and respect the faith of others in other cultures.
- Develop an understanding of the Anglican faith and practices including the variety of styles and traditions.
- Be familiar with the Lord’s Prayer.

- Become aware that Anglicanism is a worldwide community of believers and that they are part of a diocesan and national church.
- Value the environment and reflect on creation.
- Lead Collective Worship at appropriate times and provide feedback for evaluation

**Support Staff will:**

- Be included in acts of worship as timetabled with an attendance of one a week minimum
- Be encouraged to share their own talents and skills.

**Parents will:**

- Be encouraged to develop positive attitudes to the school's approach to Collective Worship and its relationship with the local and wider church.
- Be encouraged to participate in acts of worship, particularly those in church and the family monthly worships
- Share their own talents and skills, insights and concern.

**Organisation and Delivery:**

- CW is provided daily for every pupil usually as a whole school for approximately 20 minutes in the gable end classroom
- CW will be led by teaching staff, visitors, clergy and governors
- Opportunities for parents and governors to attend will be created
- Worship will be distinguished from other notices and assemblies
- On occasions worship will take place in church
- Music will be played to create prayerful atmosphere and candles and a seasonal focus table will be used
- The table will be dressed in our handmade worship cloths which were blessed by the Bishop of Whitby
- A range of approaches will be used including story telling, drama, puppets, visual aids, role play, music etc.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:**

- The headteacher and RE Team have overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation
- See Monitoring and Evaluation policy

**Right of withdrawal**

The 1988 Education Act confirmed that parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship in all schools. Collective Worship forms an integral part of the ethos and curriculum in Church Aided schools and the importance of the subject should be emphasised to prospective parents. It is hoped that all children, regardless of religious affiliation will be able to benefit from our worship together. The views of parents who wish to withdraw their children from this part of the school day will be respected in our school, however, parents should understand that the worship and religious education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England. This foundation is reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from worship and R.E. will not insulate them from the religious life of the school.

**Inclusion**

Egton Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School upholds an Equal Opportunities Policy. All parents will be offered the opportunity for their children to participate in Collective Acts of Worship activities, with provision being made for children with special requirements. E.g., disabilities requiring assistance for practical activities.