



# Mareham Le Fen Church of England Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

### Our Vision

We aspire to 'Live life to the full and create a better future for all'. We believe that God is the thread that pulls us together as one community moving forward into the wider world.

We aim to give everyone rich and varied opportunities to develop confidence, self-respect, and a sense of wonder for the world. We provide a safe, secure, stimulating and inclusive environment, where everyone is valued and supported by each other. We believe this will enable all to reach their full potential and develop resilience to meet life's challenges so that we can live happy and fulfilling lives.

Our vision is theologically-rooted in our values which are linked to Bible verses or stories and complimented by (John 10:10) 'Jesus came so that we may have life, life in all it's fullness.' Our vision and values underpin all we do, ensuring we give all, to all and live our lives to the fullest.

### Collective worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Consider their own views and others
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

We reflect on and evaluate the impact of collective worship and the way it enhances the expression of our school's distinctive Christian vision. We strive to ensure it is inclusive, invitational and inspiring for those of all faiths and none, and give pupils the opportunity to lead and evaluate, as well as staff and visitors. It embodies our school's distinctive Christian vision and ethos, allowing for the celebration of this within the school community and those wider relationships.

At its heart, we believe that collective worship offers pupils and staff the opportunity to experience the presence, power and peace of God through prayer, reflection, singing and sharing. It is important there is an opportunity to appreciate and respond to a variety of styles found in the diversity of the Christian church while enabling all taking part to develop an understanding of Anglican liturgy and the Trinity.

Children and staff are welcomed into collective worship by members of our pupil group, Spiritual Gang. The start of our Collective Worship is marked by a greeting and introduction of the person leading the worship that day. This is followed by the lighting of three candles. We have a 'gathering' call and response which changes half termly and is linked to our golden thread for that term. We close our collective worship with prayer, our school prayer, which was written by a past pupil, or the Lord's prayer followed by our sending, which is our school vision.

### How does Collective Worship demonstrate our vision and help children and adults to flourish?

Collective Worship provides a sense of togetherness beyond being in the same space. Our small, inclusive and caring school provides an embedded family ethos which is open to all ages, faiths and abilities. We ensure we use different elements within our worships and differentiate to ensure appropriate pitch and content for different groups. Our Collective Worship is planned, led and evaluated by children and adults within our school. We strive to ensure our Collective Worship is transformational, leaving children and adults thinking about or reflecting on the content and a way to move forward. We include key questions and exploratory points to engage our school community and encourage them to be curious and consider their own views and those of others. We believe Collective Worship is a key part of our provision to ensure positive mental health in all members of our community. We offer opportunities and suggestions to join in with elements such as prayer rather than instructing. Alternative opportunities to reflect personally are offered to those who choose not to pray themselves. Children and adults can sit comfortably and are not instructed or required to put their hands together, close their eyes etc. unless they want to. Music and songs are chosen carefully to reflect the Christian foundation of our school. They should remind the listeners of the importance of character and our values, God's love for them, reasons to be thankful and remind them of biblical content but not serve as an enforced declaration of faith. Our whole school community is involved in helping to shape our Collective Worship and have helped to develop our personal liturgy, used at the start and end of our Collective Worship and the format of worship throughout the school week. They also help to shape the way we gather (where, when, who), engage (how), respond (how) and transform (thinking point to take with them)

### Withdrawal from Collective Worship

We acknowledge the right of parents/guardians to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. We acknowledge that parents/guardians/teachers do not need to provide a reason why they wish to withdraw from Collective Worship. Should a parent/guardian wish to withdraw their child from Collective Worship, we require that written notice be sent to the RE Subject Leader/head teacher/school governors.

Should a parent/guardian request that their child be withdrawn from Collective Worship, we will endeavour to communicate clearly the place of Collective Worship within a broad and balanced curriculum to ensure that they are in possession of all the necessary information before confirming their decision. However, we will not attempt to persuade them to alter their decision. If a pupil is withdrawn from Collective Worship, the school is required to provide supervision, but should not incur any additional cost in so doing. Any costs incurred due to necessary supervision during this time should be met by the pupil's parent/carer. During the time that would have been spent within Collective Worship, any pupil who is withdrawn should complete alternative, equivalent reflection, provided by their parent/carer. This time should not be used as a top up for other subject areas that would effectively disadvantage others.

Any queries regarding withdrawal from Collective Worship should be directed to the RE Subject Leader in the first instance, and thereafter to the head teacher.