

## The Vine Schools Collective Worship Policy

Our vision is to inspire every child to flourish spiritually, intellectually, and personally within our nurturing school community.

### **‘Growing together in belief, knowledge and wisdom’**

#### **Introduction**

The Vine Schools are made up of: Christian Malford Primary School, Seagry Primary School and Somerfords’ Walter Powell Primary School. Each of our schools are Church of England Primary Schools and as such have a Christian tradition and ethos which is supported by all staff and academy council members. Our Collective Worship reflects and reinforces the school’s vision, aims and ethos, the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and follows the Christian liturgical year. Our Collective Worship both implicitly and explicitly demonstrates our Christian values of generosity, respect, acceptance, perseverance, empathy and selflessness. At the Vine Schools, we consider Collective Worship to be an important part of the school day when we come together as the whole school community. All our worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral and cultural development of the whole school community. It also provides occasions to contribute to academic achievement, personal development and the well-being of pupils and staff. It is attended by all pupils, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join us during our time of worship.

#### **The Value of Collective Worship**

As church schools we provide opportunities to:

- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar (see Planning and Organisation section)

Meeting together also strengthens the sense of belonging to our school family, to the local community and church, and to the world in which we live. Therefore, our Collective Worship is important because it:

- Offers communal space for the whole school community to learn, grow and celebrate, sharing each other’s joys and challenges
- Provides the opportunity for stillness and personal reflection on the big questions of life
- Nurtures all aspects of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, especially spiritual awareness
- Responds to national events, topical or local issues in a flexible and sensitive way
- Enables us to meet and engage with the local community through visitors
- Provides opportunity for pupils and staff to develop their own abilities in preparing, presenting and evaluating worship

Collective Worship is an educational opportunity with clear objectives for spiritual development and wider SMSC awareness. This time in the day can be used to encourage pupils to:

- Show interest and concern for members of the school and wider community
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community and the wider world, exploring feelings and emotions

- Share appreciation of projects and experiences undertaken by groups within the school
- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes and standards shown by religions and society
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life – celebration, wonder, beauty, joy, humour, tragedy, sorrow etc
- Reflect on the way humans reflect spiritual feelings through the arts, science, religion and service
- Enjoy stillness and quiet, taking a break from the busyness of life
- Learn how to present in front of an audience

### **Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring**

**Inclusive:** Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning and responding to others and, for some, to God. In our Church schools, pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. We acknowledge that there are pupils and staff in our schools that will come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, many pupils will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Pupils will be given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There will be space to consent and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in those participating, listening and watching.

Collective worship should not be 'done to' but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. We recognise that pupils will bring their own experience to worship. Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship.

**Invitational:** Our school communities can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There should be no compulsion to do anything. Rather, worship should provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. The metaphor of 'warm fires and open doors' captures this idea. The warmth of the fire derives from the clarity and authenticity of the Christian message at its heart. Importantly, the door is open, all are welcome to come in and sit as near or as far away from the fire as they feel comfortable. Pupils and adults should always be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way.

**Inspiring:** Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter in our schools to be inspirational. Worship should be formational and transformational: it should enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It should motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, they should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and philosophical convictions.

### **Intent**

Collective Worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, training, resourcing and evaluation.

Planning is vital to ensure that Collective Worship is:

- Distinctive from other classroom activities, retaining a sense of occasion and togetherness (see Planning and Organisation section)
- Thoughtfully delivered in an age-appropriate manner
- An educational and inspirational experience
- Participatory – inviting pupils and adults to join in as often as possible
- Rooted in the Anglican Christian tradition

Collective Worship at the Vine Schools is important to us as a school community; it aims to enable pupils and adults to flourish spiritually. Spirituality is taught through the 'Windows, Mirrors, Doors' approach. Collective Worship provides the opportunity for pupils to become aware of the importance of reflection and how our positive and negative experiences can be formative. It also provides a real sense of being present, which are often linked to invitations to pray. Through daily Collective Worship, pupils are offered a space and a place for hearing the Christian story. Pupils are given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service, through reflecting on the Bible stories and our school values. At The Vine Schools, we use the 'Roots and Fruits' resources to support exploration, discussion, discovery and reflection.

It is our intent to:

- Explore the school's vision of growing together and to reflect on how the vision informs our school values and how the two are interwoven
- Provide opportunity to reflect on the half-termly values and linked Bible stories
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship and festivals
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice
- Enable pupils to talk about the impact Collective Worship makes on their relationships and on life in school
- Develop an understanding of Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide
- Provide an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

### **Legal Requirements**

In line with the 1988 Education Reform act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our worship on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Anglican church. The law requires that Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship. Collective Worship is regarded as an essential part of the development of the whole child, and as such is recognised by staff and academy council members as an important part of daily learning. We expect all children to attend, but any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and each school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated

in the 1988 Education reform Act. The Headteachers keep a record of any child who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.

### **Planning and Organisation**

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship in each of our schools either as a whole school, key stage or in our classes. The structure of Collective Worship varies, but usually includes a song, questions, listening to and reflecting on a passage from the Bible, times of silence and prayer.

Collective Worship follows our school vision and values and is based on:

- The half-termly value and linked to an appropriate Bible story
- Religious events and special days
- Special events in the life of our school and wider community

Every term, our wider community are invited to join us in a worship to celebrate achievements. This allows our whole community to join together and be part of our Collective Worship.

### **Weekly Timetable:**

Monday Whole School	Tuesday Class	Wednesday Whole School	Thursday Whole School	Friday Whole School
Gospel Worship	Class Worship (linked to Monday's worship)	Values Worship	Prayer and Praise	Celebration worship
SLT	Class Teacher	School staff or ministry team visitor	School Staff Worship Council	SLT

### **Calendar (2024 – 2025)**

Term	Value	Church Season	Liturgical Colour	Special Days
1	Generosity	Ordinary Time	Green	Harvest
2	Respect	Advent Christmas	Purple White	Remembrance Carol Service
3	Acceptance	Epiphany Ordinary Time	White Green	
4	Perseverance	Ordinary Time Lent	Green Purple	Ash Wednesday
5	Empathy	Easter	White	Easter
6	Selflessness	Pentecost Ordinary Time	Red/Gold Green	Leavers' Service

A half-termly Collective Worship overview is planned by our Collective Worship lead teacher. This teacher also plans and prepares the Gospel and linked Class Worship for each week. In addition, each person leading worship is expected to follow this planned overview to prepare worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their role within our school community. Collective worship is led by different staff members on a rota and is also supported by our wider ministry team, including local clergy.

Children are encouraged to be involved in leading collective worship. They are given the opportunity to share prayers they have written. Key Stage 2 children are also given an

opportunity to lead other aspects of our worship. Every year, pupils from Year 2 and above may volunteer to be part of the Worship Council. They will meet at least once a term with a member of our wider ministry team to explore creative ways of communicating and strengthening our Christian ethos.

Reflective spaces in the school hall and classrooms provide a focus for collective worship. Children are encouraged to use boxes in classrooms to post concerns.

### **The Anglican Christian Tradition**

In all church schools, the act of Collective Worship must be in accordance with the school's trust deed, which means following the principles and practices of the Church of England.

The following are shared as Christian elements of Collective worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection
- Using Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and end of worship

Our worship should include:

'We Gather' – we come together as a community (music, lighting a candle, opening words)

'We Listen' - we introduce and share the topic (a Bible Story or story based on a Christian theme)

'We Reflect' – we explore about the message of the story (this can be through questions or other activities to engage with the Christian message)

'We Respond' – we share the message again and think about our this will affect our day/life/learning/behaviour (final prayer, closing words, final music)

Opening Words:

'We have gathered in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to worship together and this about (add value or focus).

Closing Prayer:

'Dear God, Thank you for our school, each other and each new day. Help us to make the most of every opportunity that comes our way. Help us to be kind to each other, and grow into the best people we can be. Amen'

### **Visitors**

Visitors are invited to lead and enhance our Collective Worship provision. Examples of visitors include clergy and volunteers from our local churches. Visitors should understand the aims of our Collective Worship and the need to avoid proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils or adults to adopt a particular religious, or non-religious belief are not appropriate. The Headteacher(s) are consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak

about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher(s).