

Minety CE Primary School

'Shine, Help, Imagine, Nurture, Excel'



Minety Church of England Primary School

'Shine, Help, Imagine, Nurture, Excel'

Date: 2/17

Review date: 2/20

Responsibility for review: RE Leader/HT/Worship Leaders/Govs

Related policies: R.E.

### Collective Worship Policy

#### **Our Vision at Minety C of E Primary School**

In Minety we aim for all to **shine**, not only in everything that we learn but in everything that we do as a Christian School community. As pupils and members of staff at Minety we are defined by this message to **shine in all aspects of life – life in all its fullness** and **sparkle** by **helping one another**. We **imagine a better world**, **nurturing** dignity and respect for others. We value all children for who they are and expect them to value everyone else in the school community. We encourage our children to **excel** in all that they do and to aim for excellence.

The **SHINE** vision is rooted in the words “**Everyone who has been wise will shine as bright as the sky above, and everyone who has led others to please God will shine forever like the stars.**” Daniel 12:3

We are also defined by values of kindness, courtesy, fairness, and respect for one another. These lead to motivation for service and commitment to society, both within and beyond our school. For this reason we have taken Jesus' summary as our principle of life in Minety C of E Primary school: “**Always treat others as you would like them to treat you**” (Matthew 7:12).

In Minety C of E Primary school we are engaged on the start of a life time journey in which we will **shine** starting our journey from God and moving out into God's world. We **help one another to live together and help our community** and **imagine** our potential not simply with hope and aspiration but also by understanding that every person can be an agent of change in our everyday world. We **nurture** dignity and



## Minety CE Primary School

'Shine, Help, Imagine, Nurture, Excel'

respect for everyone whatever their difference in terms of being or ability. We aim to create a caring and happy school community committed to **excellence in wisdom knowledge and skills**. These values are very much aligned to the Christian values of **generosity, service, creativity, compassion** and **perseverance** but based on the words of the children and our wider community.

We are committed to all children achieving their very best – excellence at a level that is achievable for every child. Children will leave this school as the very best Readers, Mathematicians, and Writers that they can be, combined with an understanding of health and fitness in mind and body. This can only happen if a love of learning for learning's sake is fostered. This happens through the dedication of our school staff team who are motivated and valued.

It is a failure if we are *only* producing children who are able academically – there is so much more to life. Parents who are the centre of a child's life, need to be supported by the school in helping their child be confident, by the school providing something; be it a club, a role or a subject, which enables their child to understand and feel success. We will enable children to reflect on their actions, good and bad and understand consequence and the importance of doing good. By going through this process children will also develop self-awareness and an understanding of how they can always improve, and reach beyond perceived barriers. To achieve this level of self-awareness children will develop skills that enable them to excel at behaving and communicating, by both listening and speaking, always, in a spirit of respect for others and themselves. It is vital, always that children are able to turn perceived weakness in to actual strength. All of this will lead to an inner confidence which, more than anything else will enable a child, in his/her future, to rise to the challenges of the modern world and to flourish.

- It is the policy of the Governing body of Minety CE Primary School to hold a daily Act of Collective Worship either in the hall as a whole school or as a class in the classroom. It is central to the life of the school and is held for everyone in the school community every day.
- This policy has been prepared by the Governors and Head Teacher with assistance from all staff and the Incumbent. Diocesan guidelines for collective worship have been referred to.
- This will be an occasion which all children may attend and to which all children may contribute or participate regardless of their personal commitment or background.
- Parents or guardians have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship and should make such a request in writing to the Head teacher. The Head teacher, staff and governors will respect such a decision.
- Children withdrawn from Collective Worship will be cared for in an alternative, supervised activity.
- The daily Act of Worship may be included within a longer assembly; the Act of Worship may be conducted separately in classes on one occasion a week or as a Key Stage e.g. Younger Infants (Key Stage 1) and juniors (Key Stage 2).



## Minety CE Primary School

'Shine, Help, Imagine, Nurture, Excel'

- Children will also be invited to pray together before lunch and at the end of the school day. There is a focus for prayer in all classrooms, with a candle, cross and bible.
- The Act of Worship will:
  - reflect a variety of Christian denominations
  - recognise other world religions and cultures.
  - provide opportunities for pupils to worship God, consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs and differences.
  - be a learning experience which may link to curricular activities elsewhere in school.

### AIMS

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

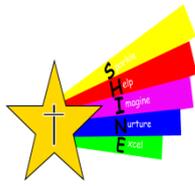
- enable children and staff to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Christian tradition.
- Lead the school community to the "threshold of worship" in order for them to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community and reinforce positive attitudes and beliefs.
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in everyday situations and consider moral issues and dilemmas.
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it is religious or not.
- Celebrate achievement and special times
- Provide an opportunity for children to worship God.
- Teach children how to worship through participation, prayer, response and reflection

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular school worship here develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

### OBJECTIVES

We see school worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives. We use this time to encourage pupils to:

- Show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community.
- Celebrate special occasions together.



## Minety CE Primary School

'Shine, Help, Imagine, Nurture, Excel'

- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world
- Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school.
- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society.
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life – the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful, solemn;
- Reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings, through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people.
- Use a vocabulary of worship that encourages whole school community to attend, participate in and lead worship.
- Nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally.
- Reaffirm, strengthen and practise key Christian values (e.g. love, helping others, nurture, compassion, creativity, perseverance, generosity and peace) and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God.
- Develop a sense of community within the school, the locality, (e.g. local church) and foster a sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions.
- Foster a concern for the needs of others.

### **In Summary:**

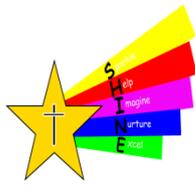
#### **We choose from a range of methods, including:**

- Pupil's contributions
- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Dance/drama
- Prayer/meditation/songs/hymns/music
- Artefacts/natural materials
- Visual aids/focal points
- Dialogue/creative silence
- Visitors

### **SUCCESS CRITERIA**

At this school evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

- Involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils
- The growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
- Positive response to shared experience
- An atmosphere which matches the theme
- A contribution to individual and community sense of well being
- A sense of occasion



## Minety CE Primary School

'Shine, Help, Imagine, Nurture, Excel'

- Good order
- Staff affirmation
- A sense of challenge
- A place in the overall plan of the school
- Enrichment of pupil's experience

### **Procedures:**

The Religious Education leaders will plan the continuity of the Acts of Worship and assemblies, liaising with others involved in their delivery.

Involvement of outside speakers will be encouraged and will allow the local Church of England representatives as well as other denominational groups to participate in assemblies.

At Christmas, the children are taken to the Village Church St Leonard's or have an act of worship and celebration within the school hall, where they will lead the service of carols and prayers. For other liturgical events in the Church's year, children are invited to attend with their families, such as Harvest festival and Mothering Sunday. In addition services take place in the School Hall or grounds e.g. Christingle and Pentecost.

A record of the content and themes of acts of worship and assemblies will be kept in school and be monitored by the RE leader.

An end of week celebration of children's work and achievement will be a feature of the school. This will be led by Year 5/6 children.

On a weekly basis, during School Songs of Praise – when the children are taught or practise hymns, songs, prayers or readings, the spiritual content of these will be emphasised and a spiritual thought for the day included.

The presence of a senior teaching member of staff during an Act of Worship where visiting speakers lead the school is important. At other assemblies, a rota of staff may be arranged in order that those needing to be absent for professional reasons may do so – although every endeavour will be made for as many staff as possible to join in Worship.

Those delivering collective worship will be aware of Minety School's Mission Statement -Shine, Help, Imagine, Nurture, Excel its vision and its Aims (as seen in the Prospectus and school website).

### **MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW**

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole school cycle of self-review and this will be achieved over time by asking all stakeholders to reflect on school worship.

#### **Monitoring**



Minety CE Primary School

'Shine, Help, Imagine, Nurture, Excel'

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the Head Teacher, Foundation Governors and the RE Leader. Useful strategies for collecting evidence will include:

- Written observations; checking that practice matches planning
- Observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- Conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback
- Seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors.
- Observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school.
- Holding regular discussions with colleagues
- Gathering written comments from Colleagues on the worship planning sheet.

Feedback will be brought to staff meetings which will review collective worship which will be held once a term.

### **Evaluation**

The information gathered via one or more of the strategies listed above will be analysed carefully in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the collective worship. Formal evaluation of collective worship will take place annually as detailed in the collective worship action plan.

### **Review**

The head teacher, governors and staff will review this policy every three years. A worship planning and record sheet is kept to ensure that acts of worship are compatible with the requirements of the policy and to inform our learning and planning for further development.

### **Responsibility**

It is the responsibility of the Head and Governing Body to ensure a daily act of collective worship takes place. The staff plan themes together and liaise with visiting speakers and keeps a record of the content of each act of collective worship. Recording monitoring and evaluation is the responsibility of the Head Teacher – Sally Greaves.

### **Conclusion**

At Minety C of E Primary School, collective worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take an active part in a high quality daily act of collective worship. At Minety we seek to ensure that worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter.