

# Mayfield CE Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

April 2017

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years or earlier  
if considered necessary

Mayfield CE Primary School is a one form entry school positioned in the village of Mayfield which borders East Sussex and Kent. It has close links with the local Church of England, St. Dunstan's Church, and is part of the Diocese of Chichester, with voluntary controlled status. The school also has links with the local Catholic church and a free evangelical church.

The school's vision clearly underlines our belief as to the importance of educating and guiding our pupils by Christian values. Daily Collective Worship provides the opportunity for our whole school community to consider Christian beliefs which underpin the school's ethos.

### SCHOOL COMMITMENT TO WORSHIP

At Mayfield Church of England School our worship will be:

- **inclusive** - engage everyone present at worship
- **stimulating and reflective** - increase children's awareness of God through varied experiences, providing opportunities for reflection and time to consider their own thoughts, feelings and reactions
- **educational** - develop children's ideas about God
- **curricular** - make appropriate links with the curriculum, class work, RE Policy and whole school Christian values
- **central to school life**
- **community cohesive** - bring our school community together to reinforce our aims and ethos, as well as, the values of the school

### AIMS FOR THE PUPILS

#### **Developing Christian beliefs through Collective Worship**

Collective Worship supports the aims of a church school through:

- Nourishing those of the Christian faith
- Encouraging reflection for those of other or no faith

#### **God as Creator**

To develop a sense of awe and wonder and foster a respect for the environment, the world and its people.

## **Jesus**

To learn more about the life and teachings of Christ and His unique character as 'God made man'.

## **The Holy Spirit**

To learn about individuals and organisations who have acknowledged the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

## **The Bible**

Through listening to stories from the Bible, learn more about the Christian way of life, how God can work through people and how their behaviour towards others can demonstrate His love.

## **Prayer**

To know that prayer is to communicate with God, both to speak and to listen.

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND THE ANGLICAN TRADITION**

During worship at Mayfield, we explore aspects of the Anglican tradition by:

- Using the Bible as a source of inspiration and learning
- Reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in worship
- Observing the major Christian Festivals and the cycles of the Anglican year
- Using the parish church, Vicar/Deacon as resources
- Learning traditional responses and prayers to create a framework for worship within the school
- Using opportunities to explore other Christian denominations by welcoming members of other Churches to lead worship - a commitment to ecumenism
- Ensuring a welcoming attitude to families of other or no faith and sharing values and beliefs

## **THE ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP**

School worship will be based on the following structure:

### **1. Gathering /Creating the atmosphere**

- Music for pupils' entry and exit
- A worship table (covered with a prayer cloth made by pupils in their final term at primary school) as a focal point with artefacts such as a cross, candle or flowers



We encourage children and adults to reflect upon how the Christian values can be demonstrated in and outside of school in their lives. If they recognise someone has demonstrated the termly focus value, they can write this down and hang it on the values tree. The identified individual is awarded with a certificate during the Celebration Assembly at the end of the term.

#### **4. Sending out (NB: To be introduced in Term 6 2017)**

We signal the end of worship with a liturgical response such as: Peace/The Lord be with you ... God the Father bless us, God the Son protect us, God the spirit help us, Now and for evermore. Amen

#### **Music**

The role of music in Collective Worship is primarily to bring pupils into an awareness of the presence of God and as with prayer, a way of praising God. The repertoire of hymns and songs are chosen from books such as 'Come and Praise', 'Kidsource' and 'Out of the Ark'. Either the piano or CDs are used and the words are displayed on a large screen so that everyone can see them clearly and join in. Learning new songs takes place during a weekly hymn practice on a Tuesday, led mainly by the Music Subject Leader.

#### **ASSEMBLY**

At Mayfield, we hold assembly and collective worship concurrently. We aim to deal with the communication side of school after the conclusion of worship.

#### **Organisation of Collective Worship**

Monday	10.20am - 10.35am	Worship led by the Headteacher or visitor	Whole school
Tuesday	9.00am - 9.30am	Hymn Practice	Whole school
Wednesday	10.20am - 10.35am Various Times	KS1 Worship KS2 Class Worship	YR - Y2 Y3 - Y6
Thursday	10.20am - 10.35am Various Times	KS2 Worship KS1 Class Worship	Y3 - Y6 YR - Y2
Friday	9.00am - 9.30am	Celebration Assembly	Whole school and families

On the first Friday of each term, the school worships at St. Dunstan's Church to introduce the term's value. This is led by each class on a rotational basis. This is also the case for Christian festivals and other special occasions such as Harvest, Christmas, Epiphany, Easter and the Year 6 Leavers' Service.

### **Spiritual Development**

Acts of Collective Worship provide particular opportunities for contributing to the spiritual development of pupils by:

- giving time for stillness and reflection, and the exploration of inner thoughts and feelings
- providing opportunities for pupils to share what is important to them
- celebrating what is worthwhile in pupils' own lives and in the context of the school and the wider community
- creating an atmosphere conducive to a sense of peace and tranquillity
- providing opportunities for pupils to use all their senses
- fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect
- being pupil centred and beginning from pupils' experiences
- providing opportunities to develop the imagination
- developing a sense of awe and wonder
- using a range of activities such as singing, dancing, drama, prayer
- providing a special time separate from other school activities

### **THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires that:

- There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal).
- All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character.
- For Collective Worship, pupils can be grouped in various ways: as a whole school, according to age, or in groups (or a combination of groups) which the school uses at other times. Pupils cannot be put into special groups just for Collective Worship.
- Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises but can take place elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church).

- Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship rests with the Governors in consultation with the headteacher. The headteacher has a responsibility to ensure that all arrangements for Collective Worship are secured.

## **WITHDRAWAL FROM COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **Parental Rights**

Parents may withdraw their child wholly or partly from Collective Worship. At the request of parents, schools may allow religious worship to be provided according to a particular faith or denomination where parents have withdrawn their child from the collective worship, provided that:

- No costs fall to the school.
- Denominational worship does not replace the statutory non-denominational worship.
- It is consistent with the overall purpose of the school curriculum. The school continues to be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn from Collective Worship.

### **PLANNING**

Collective Worship will be planned around the Church calendar and the Values for Life resource. The Head of School plans the values to be focused upon each year. Where possible, these will be planned where clear links can be made, for example, Forgiveness to link with Easter, Courage in Term 6 as preparation for children moving on to new classes, Key Stages or schools.

The Values for Life plans give guidance on:

- the Christian concept being developed
- reference to the Bible
- an outline of how the Christian concept will be developed
- how children can be involved
- opportunities for reflection and prayer
- suggestions of relevant hymns and songs
- suggestions of music to enter and exit
- questions to pose to children
- visual images and suggestion of props
- related stories to explore the theme further

## **Monitoring**

The Foundation Governors and Executive Headteacher are responsible for the monitoring of this policy.

This will be done by:

- Attending acts of worship on different days and at different times of the school year
- Discussions with staff and pupils
- Feedback from Collective Worship Leader's monitoring
- Reference to the collective worship leader's file eg. action plans

## **The Role of the Collective Worship Leader**

- Work closely alongside the RE Subject Leader and with the Aspire Federation when necessary.
- To organise a timetable of worship and worship leaders.
- To plan for visitors to lead/speak during worship and ensure that their practice is in line with the Collective Worship Policy and ethos of the school.
- To foster and maintain positive relationships with the local churches.
- To monitor the evaluation of school provision for worship through pupil voice, children's evaluations and observation of worship.
- Collate and draw conclusions from responses from children, staff, and parents on the quality of worship and act upon them accordingly.
- Suggest developments for Worship in the school through an annual action plan.
- Report to staff and governors on any significant findings.

# Appendices

Appendix 1 - School Vision

Appendix 2 - School Prayer

Appendix 3 - Christian Festivals and Cycle of the Anglican Year

Appendix 4 - Call and Response to Prayer

## Appendix 1

# Our Vision for Children

At Mayfield Church of England Primary School, our aims are guided by our Christian values.

This means that children are at the centre of everything we do. We work in close partnership with parents, carers and the wider community to make sure our children respect themselves, others and the world in which they live.

We want our school to be an inspiring, safe, caring and fun environment where everybody matters; children are happy to learn, challenge themselves and do their very best.

Through excellent teaching and care, we will support and prepare our children so that they achieve their full potential and are ready for their future lives.

Guided by our Christian focus, we will give our children wings to soar.

# Our School Prayer

Oh Lord, bless our school that,  
in working and playing together,  
we may learn to serve you  
and to serve one another.

Amen

## Appendix 3

### Christian Festivals and Cycle of the Anglican Year

January	Epiphany
February	
March	St David's Day St. Patrick's Day Mothering Sunday Lent and Easter
April	St. George's Day Lent and Easter
May	St. Dunstan's Day Ascension Day
June	St. Richard, Bishop of Chichester Pentecost Trinity
July	
August	
September	Harvest
October	
November	St. Andrew Remembrance
December	Advent Christmas

## Appendix 4

# Call and Response to Prayer

**Call: Through our lives and by our prayers**

Response: Your Kingdom come.

**Call: Lord, in your mercy**

Response: Hear our prayer

**Call: Lord, hear us**

Response: Hear our prayer

**Call: God of love**

Response: Hear our prayer

**Call: Lord, meet us in the silence**

Response: and hear our prayer

**Call: As we pray to the Father**

Response: Lord, send your Spirit

