

# Grimsargh St Michael's Church of England Primary School



## A Policy for Collective Worship

*Let your light shine before people so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven  
(Matthew 5: v.16)*

*Inspiring, believing and achieving in our loving Christian community.*

This policy reflects the school values and philosophy in relation to collective worship at Grimsargh St Michael's. It sets out a framework within which teaching and non-teaching staff can operate, and gives guidance on planning and leading acts of worship. This document is intended for all teaching and non-teaching staff with classroom responsibilities and school governors. Copies of this policy will be available for parents who wish to see it and this can be requested at the school office.

At Grimsargh St Michael's C of E School, collective worship conforms with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England, as laid down in the Trust Deed. Collective worship contributes to our Mission Statement, to the aims and ethos of the school and to the Christian education we provide. It is at the heart of our school life and both staff and governors see it as an essential part of all children's education.

### Aims

- To create an environment in which children and adults have an opportunity to worship.
- To ensure that worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring.
- To develop a knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith.
- To introduce pupils to the worship of the Church of England (eg praise, prayers, links with local church).
- To give pupils and adults the opportunity to appreciate a quiet time where they can be still and reflective.
- To develop a sense of wonder at creation.
- To explore all that is of value in life (truth, love etc)
- To reflect and express personal feelings.
- To encourage pupils to have a closer relationship with God and Jesus.
- To show that we are all part of a larger family - the family of God.
- To contribute to the spiritual and moral, social and cultural development of individuals. - to contribute to the general development of pupils eg singing, leadership, performing etc.
- To develop links with the local Church, enabling all children to take part in church services.

### Responsibility

The designated person responsible for Acts of Worship is Miss H Smith.  
Her role is to:

- Assist and co-ordinate the planning of worship
- Keep a record of all worship themes
- Attend INSET on worship
- Lead staff training
- Keep up to date with resources
- Evaluate and monitor the quality of worship

### **Organisation**

Daily collective worship is provided for every pupil. This worship takes place in various groupings - whole school, within a key stage or as a class, usually at 3:00 pm.

Monday and Friday – whole school worship

Tuesday – whole school hymn practice

Wednesday – key stage one worship together and key stage two class worship

Thursday – key stage two worship together and key stage one class worship

Weekly class worship may follow the planned termly theme/s or may look at issues arising in class and/or globally, using Picture News. The time can also be used to prepare materials, which can be included in other acts of worship, or to prepare a class lead act of worship. Worship usually takes place on the school premises, but on special occasions, can take place in St Michael's Church. Staff led acts of worship are on a rota basis, within the key stages, and whole school worship is taken by the Head, Deputy, Senior Leaders, Vicar, visitors and/or the children. Each class prepares and leads an act of worship during the year.

Parents and governors are invited to attend these whole school gatherings. The member of staff leading the act of worship evaluates them each time and incorporates pupil's responses and reflections.

We aim to create an atmosphere that is conducive to worship. Pupils are expected to maintain a quiet, respectful manner and on other occasions praise God in a more joyful, yet respectful way. We encourage the children to think and reflect by using background music as children enter/ exit the hall and having a visual focus. To indicate the start of worship a candle is lit and this remains burning during the service and signifies that our worship time is a 'special time'. There is also often an artefact/ object / quote or image related to the theme of worship to help reinforce the teaching and acts as a focus for reflection. Everyone is given time to think about what they have heard and reflect on its meaning for themselves.

General notices are announced at the end of the act of worship.

We have a designated area in the main entrance, in the hall and in each classroom, for religious display and a worship table.

Hymn practice is considered an important part of our worship. Hymns are linked to the weekly theme and/ or key festivals and children are encouraged to use their voices to enrich worship.

Collective worship is at the heart of the school, and the governors and staff see it as an essential part of our pupils' education. Prayers and graces are also said before lunch and at the end of school.

### **Parental Rights**

We expect all children to attend worship time and assemblies. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have

to explain or give reasons for their request; this right of withdrawal complies with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

### **Time**

Although acts of worship are not designated as curriculum time, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school. Worship is a way of exploring aspects of the National Curriculum and R.E. and often includes teaching and learning activities. Where these activities occur, they may be counted as teaching time. Daily acts of worship last for 15 minutes. Our whole school worship on Fridays is followed by a celebration of outstanding work and achievement.

### **Planning**

Planning takes place on a half termly basis. Themes are based on core Christian values, our vision and alongside this, we observe the Church's Year. Some acts of worship stand alone. This enables us to respond to needs within our school community or respond to needs at local, national or global level.

Content for worship consists of:

- Christian values
- The observance of the Church's Year
- Stories
- Topical events
- Looking at the world
- Common experiences.

This is only part of the worship content as much will be explicitly Christian

- Hymns and songs from Christian tradition
- Prayers
- Exploring ideas about nature of God as Father, Son and Spirit
- Christian Faith and History
- A time for reflection

Signed: **Miss Helen Smith**

Date: April 2024

Review Date: April 2025

Agreed by the Curriculum Committee: 02.10.24