



## *With God We Grow*

### Collective Worship Statement of Intent

Headteacher: Mrs S Bashora

***'Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!'***

*Psalm 105:6*

Our school vision statement is:

"Together we inspire one another to live life to its fullness, rooted and built up in Christ, so that every member of our school community can learn, develop and flourish, to live in the world as the unique individuals God created us to be."

Our school motto is:

*"With God we Grow"*

Our school values are:

*Friendship, Truthfulness, Respect, Forgiveness, Courage, Thankfulness*

### Collective worship at Clayton-le-Woods CEP School

In our school, some children come from families who regularly worship together, while some do not. Most of our children come from White British families who consider themselves Christian. Some children are from families who profess no faith. Some children are experiencing worship for the first time at school and others are at the 'threshold of worship'.

In school, we can bring children together but we cannot make them worship. We can, however, organise time and space for worship to take place but which also allows for a variety of responses.

Collective worship contributes to the fulfilment of our vision statement, to the aims and ethos of the school, to our spiritual development and to the Christian education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school. As such, collective worship is at the centre of daily school life and staff and governors view it as an essential part of pupils' spiritual education. However, the worship and prayer life of the school are not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities are taken to use prayer and meditation exercises in the curriculum generally, in graces before meals and prayers throughout the school day.

### Management of collective worship

Clayton-le-Woods CEP School is a Voluntary Aided school and, therefore, the management of collective worship is a distinctive role of the governors, co-ordinator and headteacher. Collective worship is managed in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England. The governing body is responsible for determining the ultimate nature of collective worship provided in the school, but the day-to-day planning is conducted by the co-ordinator.



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Forms of worship within our denomination differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship. As well as drawing upon our denominational heritage, we also expect to draw upon the rich diversity of practice in the worldwide Christian church.

### **Collective worship and RE**

Collective worship and RE naturally complement and enrich one another. However, they are treated as separate from the point of view of management despite being led by the same co-ordinator. Collective worship does not form part of the time allocation for RE. Although worship is not designated as curriculum time under current DfE regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school. Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of RE and the National Curriculum and frequently involves teaching and learning activities such as discussion and question and answer. Pupils may be read to, instructed, asked to listen to readings, think about and respond to stimulus such as a work of art, music and drama.

Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of their learning. Pupils are often involved in leading aspects of worship or performing through singing, music, drama and role play. When any such activities occur, they may be counted as teaching time even though they take place within worship. It is appropriate that, within a Church school, worship and learning are seen as a seamless whole even though, for the purposes of recording teaching time, we distinguish between the two.

### **Collective worship and assembly**

The school meets together for collective worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements or learning about other major world events. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from collective worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply. At Clayton-le-Woods CEP, we have a rich and varied range of worships and assemblies that teach children about the Christian Faith, but also about other faiths and beliefs and significant events in the calendar, this aids in promoting British Values.

### **Aims**

1. To create an appropriate environment for worship in which:
  - the opportunity is provided for believers to worship;
  - the uncommitted may begin to feel and understand what it means for others to worship;
  - pupils can approach the threshold of worship;
  - a variety of forms of worship can be explored.
2. To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith and to introduce pupils to worship as found in the Church of England by:
  - showing that God is involved in and concerned about all areas of human life;
  - emphasising the Christian belief of a triune God;



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- bringing pupils towards worshipping God through Jesus;
- celebrating festivals and saints' days in the church year;
- experiencing different forms of Christian worship;
- developing links with the parish church and other churches locally.

3. To contribute to pupils' spiritual development by:

- enabling pupils to use silence for reflection, meditation, contemplation and prayer;
- developing awareness of and allowing for exploration of and reflection upon the fundamental or ultimate questions of life;
- fostering a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty, mystery and power of the world in which we live;
- fostering new insights about life and empathy for others;
- learning about and reflecting upon Christian values and, in particular, the core values identified for our school;
- exploring all that is of value in life.

4. To celebrate and build up the life of the school in the presence of God by:

- providing a time to celebrate achievements;
- sharing that which has meaning, value and purpose for the children as individuals, for the school and for the wider community;
- providing the experience of, and developing the sense of, a caring community within school and of being part of the wider community.

### **Organisation and delivery**

Day	Time	Group	Leader	Place
Monday	10:45 – 11:15	Class	Class Teachers	Classrooms
Tuesday	10:45 – 11:15	Whole school	Clery/parish representative	Hall
Wednesday	10:45 – 11:15	Whole school	Headteacher/Class Teachers/visitors	Hall
Thursday	10:45 – 11:15	Whole school	PSHE lead	Hall
Friday Celebration	9:00-9:30	Whole school	Deputy Headteacher	Hall

- Parents and families are invited to church service in which the children partake and class-led acts of worship as appropriate.
- Governors have an open invitation to join the school for worship at any time.
- The school worships at church several times a year, e.g. Harvest, Christmas, Easter.



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- Staff attend worship.
- In addition to school staff and clergy, the school encourages other visitors to contribute to worship.

### **Creating a worshipful atmosphere**

- Children enter and leave the hall to music or silence where appropriate.
- Christian symbols are used on the worship table, e.g. cross, candle.
- A candle is often lit at the beginning of worship and blown out at the end.
- Greetings taken from Church of England liturgy are used to signify the beginning and end of worship time.
- Music and silence are used to encourage periods of reflection and prayer.
- Children participate in singing a range of songs as well as being encouraged to join in with verbal responses or to pray aloud.
- Children are provided with time to discuss key questions and issues with partners.
- If notices have to be given out, this is done either before the candle is lit or after it has been blown out.

### **Content and approaches**

Worship is organised around a range of themes which include:

- Major Christian festivals and elements of the Christian year;
- Bible themes;
- The 6 core values identified by the school;
- Celebration of curriculum work;
- Special events in the life of the school.

Themes may be developed over different periods of time. Occasionally, acts of worship stand alone.

Various approaches are used in the delivery of worship. These include:

- Adult and pupil led;
- Story-telling;
- Music and movement;
- Drama and role-play;
- Visual aids;
- Poetry;
- Silence and reflection.

### **Evaluation**

Evaluation of any act of worship is difficult. Some feedback may be indicated by:



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- the response of those involved (immediately or later);
- the concentration span of the pupils;
- pupil and staff comments in worship evaluation notebooks;
- Evaluations of the worship/assembly by pupils, visitors, staff;
- feedback from others, eg. staff, visitors.

### **The role of the collective worship coordinator**

- Overall responsibility for the annual and half-termly plans for worship.
- To keep a record of worship throughout the year.
- To produce an action plan each year to be included in the annual school improvement plan. This will also include a bid for any resources required.
- To ensure that medium term plans support worship leaders/classes in planning individual acts of worship.
- To ensure that reporting to governors concerning worship is included in the headteacher's termly report.
- To review the worship statement of intent every two years.

### **Resources**

- A range of artefacts, cloths and CDs are stored in the worship trolley.
- A range of files and books are stored on the shelves outside the headteacher's office.
- Useful websites:

[www.bdeducation.org.uk](http://www.bdeducation.org.uk)

[www.stapleford-centre.org](http://www.stapleford-centre.org)

[www.sermons4kids.com](http://www.sermons4kids.com)

[www.thebricktestament.com](http://www.thebricktestament.com)

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

[www.assemblies.org.uk](http://www.assemblies.org.uk)

### **Parental rights of withdrawal**

Parents are legally entitled to withdraw their children from collective worship. However, the worship provided at Clayton-le-Woods CEP School is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This Foundation is reflected throughout the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the



# Clayton le Woods C E Aided Primary School

***With God We Grow***



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conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from worship cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school.

***'You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven.'***

*Matthew 5:14-16*

**June 2025**

**Policy to reviewed June 2026**