

# Driffield Church of England (VC) Infant School



*'Learn to let your light shine'*

*Matthew 5: 14-16*

## Collective Worship Policy

September 2022

## Introduction

**(Jesus said) “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in Heaven.”**

**(Matthew 5: 14-16) (taken from the Sermon on the Mount)**

**“Learn to let your light shine!”**

This passage taken from the words of Jesus at the Sermon on the Mount, underpins our vision to work to support all pupils and staff to flourish and excel in their aspirations. We welcome all God’s children and their families into our Driffield Infant School Community. A place where children and adults of all faiths and none, flourish and are inspired by the Christian character and values of our school and learn to love God, one another and themselves (Mark 12:30-31) in order that they can ‘Live Life in all its fullness’ (John 10:10).

As a Church of England Infant School we see our Collective Worship as a central part of school life. Our Collective Worship policy fulfils the statutory requirements common to all schools according to the 1988 Education Reform Act (and consolidated in the 1996 Education Act) It also fulfils the Diocesan requirements for a voluntary controlled church school which states that worship will be Christian in content with an Anglican emphasis.

At Driffield Church of England Infant School we are committed to valuing and nurturing each child as an individual and believe Collective Worship is a time to come together, as a community, to share common values and principles and to develop a sense of awe and wonder concerning our place within the world.

## Aims

Our aim is to create worship which is *invitational, inclusive and inspirational* that contributes to the spiritual, emotional and intellectual growth, as well as moral, social and cultural development of all children and staff.

Our policy for Collective Worship supports this by:

- Recognising that Collective Worship gives the whole school the opportunity to engage in an act of community, whilst providing opportunities for our pupils’ and staff’s spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and as such starts each school day.
- Providing a daily act of worship for all pupils which enables them to:
  - express praise and thanksgiving to God
  - reflect on the school’s Christian values as well as their own beliefs
  - reflect on their own personal development
  - foster respect and deepen their own spiritual awareness.
  - reflect on multi-faith festivals
  - develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
  - consider spiritual and moral issues, exploring the big questions of life and respond to national events.
  - respond to Christian language and symbolism and experience stillness and quiet
  - consider the importance of reflection in prayer, meditation and silence

- respond to the worship offered
- begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- begin to understand the concept of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit (the trinity) at a level suitable for their age
- Ensuring the daily act of worship be distinctly Christian in content and follows the liturgical calendar.
- Ensuring Collective Worship, whether whole school, in class, in Church or outdoors will:
  - be inspiring and transformational
  - invitational ensuring children and adults have the opportunity to engage
  - be led by senior leaders, staff, children, clergy or visitors
  - develop the Christian vision, values and ethos of the school
  - include a range of creative opportunities e.g. music, silence, symbol, drama
  - heavily involve pupils through members of the worship group opening and closing worship, through pupils contributions and through pupils leading prayer
  - celebrate and give thanks for the achievements of pupils both within school and the wider community, linking these back to 'letting our light shine'.

### **Content of Daily Worship**

As a Church of England School, the content of our Worship is organised in order to:

- follow a termly plan that links to our Vision and 6 core values
- cover the major Christian festivals including Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Candlemas, Easter and Pentecost
- be rooted in Bible teaching
- link to the key concepts in Understanding Christianity
- give the children an understanding of the four elements of the Church of England's Vision for education; Wisdom, Hope, Community and Dignity,
- follow a pattern that the children understand: gathering, learning. reflecting and responding.

### **Organisation**

We value our links with All Saints Church Driffield. We hold our Welcome Service, Harvest, Christmas and Easter Services and Leavers Service in church in addition to occasional daily worship. The vicar attends our services in Church and regularly leads worship in school, as do YEAST, a group from Churches Together. Wherever possible we also invite members of the community in to lead

### **Format of worship**

All worship will involve gathering, engagement or learning, reflection and responding

At all worship we start and finish with a sung prayer as we set up/ clear away the worship table with the Bible, cross and candle to represent God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit and then as the candle is lit the following response will be said::

*'Let the light of Jesus shine in our school'.*

*'Jesus is with us'.*

Engagement/ learning may include a story, drama, pictures, music and reflection may be through song, prayer, stillness.

The school prayer will always be said:

*'Dear God*

*Bless our school.*

*Help us to work together and play together*

*And make our school a happy place to be.*

*Amen*

We have a Year 2 Church School Ambassadors team who regularly help with leading Worship.

### **Inclusion and Withdrawal**

Collective Worship is central to the life of our school. However, we acknowledge that parents/carers do have a legal right to withdraw their child / children from all or part of Worship. Before making the decision to exercise that right, parents/carers are encouraged to discuss their issues with the Headteacher. Staff also have the right to withdraw on the grounds of conscience, but we hope that all staff will feel able to support the Christian ethos of the school by participating in worship if they are in school.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review of Collective Worship**

Monitoring and Evaluation of the effectiveness of worship is carried out by governors, SLT, staff and pupils. The programme of monitoring is built into the termly worship plan. Information gathered is fed back to governors and worship leaders via the values committee. All worship leaders, including the team of pupil leaders, meet towards the end of the academic year to review and plan for the following year

### **Resources**

Collective Worship books are held centrally and available to all staff.

### **Linked Documents**

- Collective Worship Plan
- RE Policy
- Spirituality Policy

### **Policy Review**

To be reviewed every 3 years (next review September 2025)