

# Piddle Valley CE First School

## Collective Worship Policy



*Living, Growing, Loving, Learning*

### Our Mission Statement

Our school is founded on Christian values, principles and beliefs. We are a happy school in which pupils work hard and learn well within a nurturing and safe environment.

At Piddle Valley CE First School we recognise that all members of our school community – children, parents, staff, volunteers and governors – are unique and valued for the contribution they make.

### **Piddle Valley CE First School is special because we aim to:**

- Create an environment where children develop the confidence to think for themselves and enjoy their time at school.
- Encourage high standards, seeing all children as individuals and helping them to achieve their full potential.
- Develop an understanding of our five core values for the whole school community, Respect, Responsibility, Courage, Creativity and Forgiveness.
- Make learning an enjoyable experience.
- Develop in children a sense of awe and wonder at the world around them.
- Help children to become caring and responsible citizens who have positive attitudes towards the well-being of themselves and others.
- Develop in children respect for other people and their surroundings.
- Celebrate self-esteem and build up confidence by reacting positively to children and their work.
- Promote constructive relationships between governors, staff, parents, carers, volunteers and the church and wider community.
- Recognise and celebrate our Christian values, which permeate through all aspects of school life.

***“Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Matthew 22 v 37-39***

The school is a member of the Wessex Multi Academy Trust.

### Piddle Valley First School Culture

- We enjoy celebrating our Christian foundation
- We encourage high standards and achievement for all
- We encourage children to be global citizens
- We work on our strengths and seek to continually improve
- We are proud of ourselves and our school
- We support each other
- We make learning an enjoyable experience

- We promote a positive, fair and happy atmosphere
- We build confidence and self esteem
- We feel safe to make mistakes and know that we can learn from these
- The core to every decision is: What is best for the children?

The culture of our school underpinned by our core values ensure that all children have their rights respected, including their fundamental right to come to school to work and play without being disturbed or disrupted.

### **Aims and purpose**

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- ☐ to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- ☐ to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- ☐ to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- ☐ to encourage participation and response;
- ☐ to respect individuality and celebrate diversity;
- ☐ to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- ☐ to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- ☐ to teach children how to worship.
- ☐ to provide an opportunity for personal and shared reflection.
- ☐ to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, the local and international community and occasions of significance including festivals.

### **Collective worship**

- We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God.
- Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we may also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

### **Organisation of collective worship**

- We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school.
- We meet as a whole school every day; being led by either the Head teacher, Mrs Jayne Browne or a member of staff.
- 'Worship through song' once a week and a 'Celebration of Achievement' , when we celebrate good learning, good behaviour and recognition of the core Christian values, form part of the regular pattern.
- We conduct our Collective Worship times in a dignified and respectful way.

- Children are taught that collective worship is a time of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate manner. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns.
- We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.
- We take the themes of our Collective Worship times from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our Collective Worship times reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.
- We plan our Collective Worship as part of a series of themes which form part of an adaptable annual cycle. We use the Church of England's Values for Life Resource to support the planning of assemblies together with the Jigsaw resources.
- Themes are jointly planned by the Headteacher and the RE Coordinator.
- Our Collective Worship times reflect the achievements and learning of the children.
- We encourage the children to participate by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes.
- Collective Worship times offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.
- Piddle Valley CE First School including our Pre-school is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children during Collective Worship times.
- We welcome the input of visitors to our Collective Worship eg 'Water Aid', 'Fair Trade' assemblies.
- Our staff involve pupils when acting out Bible stories.
- We invite parents to assembly and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.
- Celebrations of special festivals or occasions may take place in the village church and we invite parents and members of our local community to attend.
- We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

**Communal and Personal Reflection:**

- Collective Worship at our school is a time when staff and children meet together and have the opportunity to reflect on the non-material dimensions of our lives together in the school community and as individuals.
- It is not regarded simply as a time to exchange information or deal with organisational issues.
- It is therefore important that wherever possible 1 member of staff per class attends Collective Worship.

**Praise and prayer:**

- We give children the opportunity to develop spiritually in the gathering together for Daily Worship to praise the awe and wonder of God and the beauty of the world God has created; to pray together, to learn about the teachings of both the old and New Testament with particular emphasis on the teachings of Jesus.

**Life Application:**

- Children are given opportunity to consider what is important in our lives, about beliefs and values, and application of their beliefs to practical situations in their lives.
- They are taught to understand and respect the beliefs of other cultures and religions.

**Celebration & Achievement:**

- Worship takes place through a variety of media such as Bible teaching, stories, songs, poetry, drama etc.
- Class led worship is often used as an opportunity to share experiences and achievements with the whole-school community and with parents and friends.

**Family Community:**

- Through our daily Collective Worship, we aim to bring an awareness of what it means to be part of a community, which cares for each other, for God and for the environment. In so doing we hope that pupils will develop the ability to explore issues for themselves, be able to reflect upon and learn from experiences and develop a sense of awe and wonder about the wider world whilst understanding their role and responsibilities to their local community.

**Equal Opportunities:**

- Staff and Governors are committed to ensuring that opportunities for worship are relevant to all pupils and pay due regard to their ages, abilities and interests.
- We aim to recognise the equality of each child in God's sight, whatever the child's gender, race, physical or mental ability.
- Pupils currently take part in collective worship and often lead worship however each parent has the right to withdraw their child for religious reasons.

**Special Education Needs:**

- Staff and Governors attempt to ensure that materials and subject matter used in collective worship are appropriate for the range of abilities of all pupils in school

### **Right of withdrawal**

- We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

### **Recording and Evaluation**

- Acts of Worship are evaluated in terms of children's responses which are given by pupils weekly. Evaluation sheets are used to record children's reflections on the worship and their potential actions as a result of their understanding of the topic.
- The School Council work together to improve and enhance our worship.
- The Headteacher, who is also the Collective Worship leader, collates all these responses and feeds back to the teams involved.

### **Monitoring and review**

- It is the role of a named school governor (Reverend Roger Butcher) with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.
- The governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

Collective Worship will be monitored by;  
Discussion at staff and governor meetings.

This discussion will include:

- ✓ Review of content and methodology:
- ✓ Suitability for age, aptitude and ability, variety of styles, leadership:
- ✓ Links to the curriculum.
- ✓ INSET.
- ✓ Review of the role of the Collective Worship Leader.
- ✓ Attendance at Worship by Governors for monitoring purposes.

**Last approved by LGB Date: September 2017**

**Reviewed annually by HT otherwise approved every three years – next review January 2023**

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Headteacher: \_\_\_\_\_