

# **Monksmoor Park CE Primary School**

## **Collective Worship Policy DRAFT**

**Date ratified by Governors:**

**DRAFT**

**Dates reviewed by Governors:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## Policies at Monksmoor Park CE Primary School



Policies play an important part of any school and should not only set out procedural steps, but also embody the vision and values of the school. As a Church of England School, our values exemplify Christian values and all our policies express the same regard.

The Governing Body takes great care to ensure all decisions they make are in line with our values and their choice of wording in all HR and Finance documentation, although adopted from NCC, also illustrates this.



*'For I know the plans I have for you...plans to give you hope and a future.'*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

## Acceptance

*"Let us make every effort to do what leads to peace and to the strengthening of one another" (Romans 14:19)*

- ☐ We appreciate that each one of us is a unique human being created by God. In response, we are always accepting of others and ourselves, and seek to celebrate our diversity.

## Friendship

*"I speak to you as my friends" (John 15:15)*

- ☐ We recognise that Jesus came in to the world so that everyone could experience the 'forever friendship' that God offers. In response, we always treat others, as we would like to be treated ourselves.

## Hope

*"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:31)*

- ☐ We know that Christian hope is rooted in the love and faithfulness of God, who is a 'strong rock' and one whose promises can be trusted. In response, we see learning as an open-ended and hopeful activity involving the mind, body and soul for pupils and staff.

## Joy

*"The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy" (Psalm 126:3)*

- ☐ We understand that joy comes from knowing God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit. In response, we celebrate everything that is good about our school and wider community, and seek to be a source of joy to others.

## Respect

*"Show proper respect to everyone" (1 Peter 2:17)*

- ☐ We value the beautiful world that God has created for us to enjoy with others. In response, we seek to live with respect for the environment and each other, especially those who care for us at home, at school and in the wider community.

## Wellbeing

*"I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness" (John 10:10)*

- ☐ We know that God wants us to flourish as human beings and to be the best that we can be. In response, we value and nurture all that leads to the creation of a sense of wellbeing in our lives as individuals and a community.

## **Rationale**

At Monksmoor Park C of E Primary School we understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves pupils and staff coming together and participating in a daily gathering. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that collective worship should be wholly or broadly of a Christian character, we base our collective worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we aim to conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of school.

Collective worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Monksmoor Park C of E Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can;

- Share common aims and values
- Celebrate achievement and special times
- Explore together the world in which we live
- Develop a community spirit

## **Aims for Collective Worship**

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship are;

- To provide an opportunity for the children and school community to worship God
- To enable the children and school community to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable the children and adults to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- To introduce different ways of worshipping

At Monksmoor Park C of E Primary School collective worship very important to our life and work as we offer the distinctive contribution of a Voluntary Aided Church School. We provide an opportunity for children and staff to worship in a contemporary Christian style, which is consistent with the traditional beliefs and practices of the Church of England.

## **Practicalities of Organisation**

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. The format for these is agreed annually and an example is in the appendix. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and a cross and candle that acts as a focal point for the attention of the children. The Head Teacher, Deputy Head and other members of staff conduct collective worship but usually on Tuesdays a member of the church leads. This brings greater variety to our worship times and strengthens links between school and the local church. Parents are invited to special services eg at Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year. This promotes the community spirit of the school. We welcome governors' attendance at our collective worship at any time. Other opportunities for prayer and reflection are given at lunchtimes and in classes at the end of each school day. Worship opportunities are also offered to staff, children and their families as we attend services (eg Christingle, Carole services and end of year services in The Holy Cross church.

Day	Focus	Content	Attendees	Responsibility
Monday	Value: Friendship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age appropriate Bible story linked to value</li> <li>• Prayer/refection</li> <li>• Song</li> </ul>	All staff	Headteacher
Tuesday	Church visitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age appropriate Bible story linked to value</li> <li>• Prayer/refection</li> <li>• Song</li> </ul>	All staff	Headteacher/Rev. Dawn
Wednesday	Singing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn new/practise song linked to value</li> <li>• Prayer/reflection</li> </ul>	TA	Headteacher
Thursday	Story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text linked to value</li> <li>• Prayer/refection</li> <li>• Song</li> </ul>	Classroom staff	Class teacher
Friday	Celebration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STAR achievements</li> </ul>	All staff	Headteacher

## Expectations

We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worship time is special thinking time for calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect them to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teaching and invite them to participate in prayer and songs.

When effectively planned and delivered, collective worship is a powerful tool for establishing school ethos and expectations and developing a strong sense of community. As a brand new school, this time is a very valuable time for building a successful school community through relevant SMSC messages and allowing time for reflection and response. At Monksmoor Park we will provide a varied approach to collective worship. We will aim for it to be lively, participative and an enjoyable occasion for children and staff!

## Content

A plan of themes is produced annually reflecting the values we have chosen as a school. These are; Friendship, Joy, Wellbeing, Hope, Acceptance and Respect. We also consider and reflect on the festivals and special times of the Christian calendar. Our Collective Worship Diary outlines all acts of worship, recording themes covered and songs/music used. We also hold collective worship that reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in collective worship by showing their work to others and sharing issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective worship offers 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 recognised.

High quality collective worship will include the following features:

- Accompanying entry/exit music
- Visual stimulus- objects, artefacts, media clips, pictures etc.
- Opportunity for active and fun child participation through role play, talk etc

- Supporting staff participation as appropriate
- Singing
- Opportunity for all to experience quiet & silent reflection/thinking/prayer (use of music, symbol, picture etc.) Children need to be taught how to participate in this important spiritual discipline.

## Resources

- Roots and Fruits
- Jack in the Box
- Oscar out of the box
- Big start assemblies
- Fischy Music
- Picture First News

The Lion Storyteller Bible and The Lion Bible for Children are used as the regular source of Bible material to share with children. Resources published by the Diocese of Peterborough are also utilised.

Useful websites to be used include;

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

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

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

## Evaluation, Monitoring and review

It is the role of the Ethos team to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. As part of this, pupil interviews are carried out. This team liaises with the head teacher before reporting to the FGB on collective worship.

## Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend collective worship, and we discuss this with parents at the time of admission. 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 current legislation. The Head Teacher keeps a record of any children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.

## Appendix

### Sample Collective Worship Diary

#### Collective worship

Collective worship is central to the development of the schools SMSC education and overall ethos. It is an extremely valuable time spent together where core values are communicated to the whole community.

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**Value: Friendship**



As we welcome new children to the school, we will focus on the value of Friendship. Bible stories such as the calling of the first disciples and 'Lazarus, Mary and Martha' will help children to understand the concept of friendship.

We will think about the 'rules of friendship' in relation to what helps and hinders the making of a good friendship.

Week	Value: Friendship	Entry/exit music
Week 1 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<i>What is a friend?</i> The Bible shows that God's model for friendship is centred on '...do to others what you would have them do to you...' <i>Bible story: Matthew 7:12</i>	<b>Lean on me</b> Bill Withers
Week 2 16 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<i>Why do we need friends?</i> Adam's search for a true friend <i>Bible story: Genesis 2:18-25</i>	<b>Any time you need a friend</b> Mariah Carey
Week 3 23 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<i>How do we make new friends?</i> Jesus' special friends - 'Calling of the first disciples' <i>Bible story: Luke 5:1-11/Matthew 4:18-20/Mark 1:16-20)</i>	<b>That's what friends are for</b> Dionne Warwick
Week 4 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<i>Harvest</i> Parable of the rich fool <i>Bible story: Luke 12:16-21</i>	<b>Harvest for the world</b> The Christians
Week 5 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<i>What makes a good friend?</i> Jesus heals a paralytic <i>Bible story: Luke 5:17-20</i>	<b>A little help from my friends</b> Beatles
Week 6 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<i>How do we keep our friends?</i> Being there for them when they need us - Lazarus, Mary and Martha <i>Bible story: John 11:5-44</i>	<b>Thank you for being a friend</b> Andrew Gold
Week 7 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	<i>How do friends stick together?</i> Four figures in the fire/God's protection in sending an angel <i>Bible story: Shadrach, Meshach and Abenigo</i>	<b>You've got a friend in me</b> Michael Buble



