



# St Mary's Cockerton CE Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Date Reviewed: 01.09.2021

Approved by: Christian Character Committee

Next Review: As required

# This is how we do it here

## 1. Introduction

St Mary's Cockerton Church of England Primary School - working together, building a community which lives within, and shares God's love. We aim to offer an education which allows everyone to be inspired to raise our eyes, open our minds and explore the world God created, within his mission of love and to live fully as global neighbours.

St Mary's Cockerton Church of England Primary School has close links with the parish church of St Mary, spiritually and geographically. Collective Worship is in accordance with the 'principles and practices of the Church of England.' Christians believe in the principles of love, care and respect for God and each other. There is a strong commitment by the Church of England to ecumenicalism (unity of Christians worldwide). This underpins our vision and ethos.

## 2. Aims

To encourage, equip and celebrate our school community as the hands and feet of Jesus, responding to God's mission of love.

## 3. Objectives

Collective Worship will follow these principles:

- To be inclusive
- To be part of the whole school curriculum
- To be educational, not indoctrinal, thought provoking and celebratory
- To contribute to Religious Education within the school
- To have a sense of community, occasion and spirituality

## 4. Time allocation

Collective worship takes place every day for approximately 20 minutes, led by the Executive Principal, Members of the Senior Leadership Team, clergy from St Mary's Church and other members of teaching staff. This time may be extended on special occasions.

Whole School Collective Worship takes place on Mondays, Tuesday (led by clergy) and Friday. Class worship takes place on Wednesday and Thursday. Classes are timetabled to take part in a service based on the Eucharist at least once per term.

## 5. Organisation

- Planning – a termly overview forms the basis for more detailed weekly planning
- References to:
  - Diocesan syllabus
  - Major Christian festivals
  - Significant customs and practice of the Church of England
  - World/local events
  - Charitable causes
  - Global Citizenship calendar
  - Bible texts

- Key Christian figures/ Saints – their writings, teachings and contributions
  - Prayers
  - Personal example
- There should be a focal point displaying cross and lit candles
- Music should be played at the start/end of the act of worship
- Creative arts should be incorporated where appropriate
- ICT can be used as a tool to support and enhance
- Pupils should have wide ranging opportunities to participate in worship
- Everyone should be present, where possible
- Time should be allocated for reflection
- Assembly time, when required, should occur at the end of Collective Worship e.g House Team Worship
- Evaluations should be made by staff and pupils

Key times in the Christian calendar are celebrated jointly with St Mary's Church. There is an open invitation for all members of the school community to join with St Mary's congregation for services and special events.

Weekly Eucharistic style services for individual classes are held in school, led by clergy. Parents and are invited to attend, as well as members of St Mary's Church. In Years 4-6 those children who have been prepared for Communion take the Sacrament on these occasions and other children receive a blessing. In EYFS and Years 1-3 pupils participate in an Agape Service, which lays the foundations for the Eucharist.

A large stone cross provides a focal point in the school grounds and the school incorporates a Chapel room for quiet reflection, including stained glass from a deconsecrated church in the area. Each classroom has a quiet area incorporating a cross and prayer box and other appropriate artefacts e.g. candles. Bibles are present in each class and are treated respectfully at all times.

Collective Worship is monitored and planned by the Collective Worship co-ordinator. Regular evaluations are made including the views of pupils who are asked for their opinions on aspects of worship on several occasions throughout the year.

## **6. Prayer and reflection**

All children will be provided with regular opportunities to reflect and pray. Formal prayer opportunities are provided as follows:

- Collective Worship begins with the school prayer and has further prayers linked to the theme of worship; children's prayers from the Chapel prayer post box may be shared; prayers are often concluded with the Lord's Prayer
- before lunch: children say a grace
- at the end of the school day: children say the school prayer

In classrooms and the chapel, there should be a reflection area which is linked to worship or the term's focus Christian Value. All reflection areas should hold a prominent position. Areas should include:

- a Bible
- A display reflecting the term's Christian value, including pupil contributions
- candles for use in worship

The Chapel prayer post box will be checked weekly with prayers shared in House Team Worship.

## **7. Equal Opportunities**

All children, irrespective of social background, culture, ethnicity, gender, ability or disability are able to take part in Collective Worship.

Parents who wish to withdraw their children from Acts of Worship are invited to discuss their views with the Executive Principal. However parents should be aware that St Mary's Cockerton is a Church of England Aided Primary School with deeply Christian aims and ethos.

## **8. Arrangements for Review**

The Collective Worship Leader will keep this policy under review, updating as required.