Monks Risborough
Church of England Primary School
'A school family where everyone thrives in every way.'

# Collective Worship Policy

This policy was adopted Autumn 2023

The policy is to be reviewed Autumn 2026

Signed *copy in school*…. Chair of Governors

*"To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God."*

*William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury 1942-44*

**'A school family where everyone thrives in every way.'**

Monks Risborough Church of England Primary School we celebrate being part of God's family where everybody respects others, the world around them and also themselves. Guided by our Christian values, it is our ambition to motivate and inspire everyone to be lifelong, resilient and enthusiastic learners. We aspire to equip everyone to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world, and to reach out to the wider community. We endeavour to do this through our core values: respect, responsibility, generosity, thankfulness, perseverance, friendship, community and love.

These values permeate through our daily lives here at Monks Risborough CE Primary School and they underpin our daily Collective Worship.

Within our school we place great importance on children's spiritual, personal, social and cultural development combining highly effective learning with personal growth. We have high expectations for outstanding behaviour to ensure that all children have the opportunities to succeed. This is supported by our strong Christian ethos and close links with our local Church.

**Worship in our school should:**

As worship:

- Should at its simplest create a time and space where we can come closer to God and God can come closer to us
- Be distinctively Christian
- Use and promote the clearly identified core Christian values of the school
- Have ***Integrity*** as acts of Anglican worship whilst being ***Invitational, Inclusive*** and ***inspirational***
- Be based on Biblical text or themes
- Enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Be central in importance to the life of our school community, which is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world
- Reflect on human existence
- Use the seasons and festivals of the Christian year
- Develop understanding of Anglican traditions and the practice of the local parish church

For people:

- Develop personal spirituality within the school community through a range of experiences including individual and collective prayer
- Engage pupils and adults with collective worship, making it relevant and transformational to the lives of members of the whole school community
- Celebrate the God given gifts and talents of individuals and the whole school community
- Make a significant contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of members of the school community
- Consider the beliefs and values of others, especially those within the school community
- Raise aspirations of individuals and the school community

To comply:

- Reflect the trust deed
- Be clearly outlined on the school website and documentation
- Involve learners and adults in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship
- Be monitored and evaluated for the impact it has on the school community by foundation governors

**Aims of Worship**

- To promote the joy of worship as engaging, inspiring and transformative.
- To develop spirituality, morality, social and cultural values.
- Sometimes to provide a peaceful environment enabling stillness, reflection and prayer.
- Sometimes to be noisy and joyous with singing, music, dance, drama etc.
- To give an opportunity to acquire a secure knowledge of the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible.
- To understand, celebrate and develop children's knowledge of Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and religious festivals in the Anglican Church's year.
- To appreciate that people, cultures and beliefs differ and to demonstrate respect, tolerance and generosity towards them.
- To develop pupils' sense of self-worth and to provide opportunities to celebrate achievements.
- To develop a caring attitude to others and a sense of community and loyalty.To provide opportunities for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate collective worship.
- To invite clergy of the parish, other lay members of the parish and other Christian leaders in the community to lead worship weekly.

**How we achieve our aims**

- We aim to promote collective acts of worship, which are rich, meaningful experiences that are appropriate and significant to the pupil's needs, age, development and interest by:
- Creating a sense of occasion and reverence following the 4 central attributes of worship.
- Arranging worship at different places when possible, different times with different people and groupings, involving all members of the school community at some time.
- Planning and linking themes which focus on a particular idea/concept, i.e. the liturgical year; RE curriculum, festivals and celebrations, within Christian and other faith traditions, our Christian values, world views/events and our Personal Development curriculum – celebrating achievements, good progress in learning, attainment and behaviour.
- Using a wide range of resources, devotional aids, artefacts (from religious and secular sources), music, art, drama and external speakers to engage children's interest.
- Encourage children to participate and experience different styles of worship, e.g. prayer, praise, silence, rituals, and become familiar with the language of worship, Biblical readings and liturgy.
- Providing opportunities for pupils to reflect, contemplate on their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using the centrality of prayer – personal silent prayer, personal shared prayers, collective prayers, writing prayers.
- Providing opportunities that develop pupil's awareness of what is beautiful, good, wonderful, awesome and puzzling in life experience.
- Involving pupils and members of the wider community to participate in Collective Worship and activities within the parish.
- Presenting and creating displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas, thoughts and questions.

**Organisation**

As a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School we will provide a daily act of collective worship which is based on Christian principles. The act of worship will be appropriate for the ages, abilities and backgrounds of all pupils and allow those pupils from non-Christian families to join in. In order to achieve this there will be:

- A visual focus for the whole school assembly, a relevant image and/or quotation will be projected onto the hall screen and/or a small table with a candle including a simple cross.
- A Christian Value these are discussed and planned for each month.
- A reading or story, these may be from the Bible or other cultures and may be read or told by a child, teacher, visitor, or local vicar.
- A hymn or song with a link to reflection or Christian principles
- A prayer or blessing, these may also be taken by any of the above-named people and may be written/said by children.
- A time of quiet reflection
- The Lord's Prayer will feature regularly in assembly.
- Appropriate music Children and staff will be encouraged to listen carefully to appreciate the gift and talents of the composers, musicians and singers.
- The order of service may be altered if it is appropriate but will always end with a time for reflection followed by a prayer or blessing.

Classes will be led into the hall by the staff in a quiet and orderly manner and sit in the same manner to listen to the music and to focus on the visual stimulus and become reflective pupils.

The total time for collective worship 20 minutes and will be at 1.45 am each day

- Monday - Whole school Bible/Values/Festival-Introduce Big Question for the week led by layman and clergy from churches in Risborough/Headteacher
- Tuesday - Whole school Bible/Values/Festival focus led by St Dunstan's Church Clergy/Headteacher if clergy unavailable
- Wednesday - Whole school Hymn singing Worship/ Class Worship reflection time on Big questions - alternating between the two
- Thursday - Other Religious Festivals, World Views/Events led by class teachers
- Friday - Whole School Christian Values Celebration Worship -Thriving Champion led by Headteacher

*Collective Worship should be planned systematically, so that there is continuity, variety and clear focus on*

*Christian beliefs and festivals. Worship is led by a variety of people that include school staff, pupils, Governors, representatives from the parish church, members of different faith communities and members of the local community.*

**Monitoring of Collective Worship**

The monitoring of the planning and provision of worship should be carried out on a regular basis. The foundation governors have a key role in this process to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality. It is recommended that the Collective worship section of The National Societies Self-evaluation toolkit be used as a basis for this process (see SIAMS SEF). This is done through discussion and observations.

**Rights of Withdrawal**

At Monks Risborough we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents

to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the headteacher.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. All teachers in VC Schools, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish to exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Monks Risborough school.

**Responsibility for Collective Worship**

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met. In a small school the Headteacher may wish to take on the responsibility for organising and planning the worship. Clergy are encouraged to be involved in the planning and preparation of school worship as this will ensure continuity between the worship in the school and in the parish or parishes.

**The community**

Parents, Governors, the local Playgroup, over 60"s and other members of the community are welcomed to join the school worship. The Harvest Festival, KS2 Easter Service, KS2 Christmas Service and Year 6 Leavers' Service are held at St Dunstan's Church and the school community are invited to join us. The school also attends St Dunstans to mark the start of Lent and Accession Day.

**Further worship**

Children and staff say a prayer or grace before lunch within the classroom, followed by a short moment for reflection. Each school day ends with a prayer in class before the children leave.

**Equal opportunities**

Tolerance and positive attitudes are encouraged towards those within our community of different faiths, cultural backgrounds, or with disabilities. All children will be given opportunities to actively participate. A variety of music and art from different cultures will be part of the planned programme.