

## Farnsfield St Michael's Collective Worship Policy

At Farnsfield St Michael's C of E Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life.

Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our Mission statement:

*'My Commandment is this: love one another as I have loved you John 15 v12'*

This is summed in our school motto of:

'love to learn, learn to love'

Supporting our mission statement are our Rainbow Values. These seven Christian based values underpin the whole of our worship.



Put simply our worship is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together.

### **1. 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 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.

## **2. Collective worship.**

2.1. We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly.

2.2. 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. In our collective worship we explore Christian values with generally an emphasis upon one value per week.

In worship, we also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

## **3. Organisation of collective worship.**

3.1. We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. We hold a daily act of collective worship in school which is whole school, House based or class based.

3.2. Our pattern of worship is as follows:

Mondays	Whole School Worship based upon a Christian Values and using the Roots and Fruits Collective Worship materials.
Tuesdays	Class collective worship with notes provided following the Picture News resources for that week. Once every half term, a house worship will take place with the children assembling in house groups for a worship opportunity led by a house representative.
Wednesdays	Usually a visitor led worship with either the Rev Chris Pearse Vicar of St Michael's Church, Andy Proffitt, Children and Families Minister, or Sue and Robin (Riverside Christian Fellowship) to support further examination of Monday's theme.
Thursdays	Music Collective Worship takes place alternate weeks, where new worship songs are learned to both sing and sign. This alternates with a staff led collective worship linked to the value of the week.
Fridays	Rainbow worship takes place on a Friday where children are celebrated for the values they have shown throughout the week. Parents are invited into this special celebratory worship.

Staff attend all Monday, Wednesday and Friday worships and whenever a visitor is present. Tuesday worships are led by the staff member in their own classrooms. And Thursday worship a phased representative joins the worship. All staff are welcome to all worship opportunities throughout the week.

3.3 Where possible we include pupils in the planning of worship, particularly the Worship group and leaders.

3.4. We conduct our worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and songs.

3.5. We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Our altar is decorated with a coloured cloth to reflect the liturgical seasons. The themes of our worship can also reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the School Curriculum.

3.6. The worship begins with the children entering the hall either singing and signing the worship song for the day or listening to and appraising the chosen piece of worship music for the week. This is displayed on the screen in the hall.

3.7. The invitation to worship is chosen, and led by the children and the congregation signs the response. Our worship leaders light the candle on the altar table, which was created by the whole school at the start of the academic year, and the worship begins. The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with a prayer. The children are dismissed one class at a time by the worship leaders and they chose a child to blow out the candle to signal the end of worship.as the children leave the worship song is playing for children to sing and sign.

3.8. Our weekly Rainbow worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children in and outside of school. Teachers choose a member of their class to receive a special mention and certificate. The worship begins with a child playing a musical instrument to share their talents with the wider school.

3.9. Parents are invited Rainbow worship and at the end of term, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the schoolwork together to support the achievements of our children.

3.10. We welcome governors' attendance at our worship and assemblies at any time.

#### **4. Prayer and Reflection**

4.1. Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, Our school Rainbow Prayer, prayers written by the children and published prayers. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet.

A cross is also displayed on the altar table.

A daily prayer is said in each classroom at an appropriate time of day.

Every classroom has a Reflective Area, where values are explicitly shared and where a prayer book and bible can be found. Children can use these spaces if they need a moment to reflect during the school day.

#### **5. Other Faiths**

5.1. At St Michael's our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values and we are also committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. Other faiths, cultures and beliefs may be explored through assemblies as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

## **6. Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring**

6.1. The online SharePoint folder includes the plans and reflects the coverage of each act of worship and/or assembly. Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship. Some worships may be evaluated and monitored by the collective worship lead, the trust or governors.

## **7. Equal Opportunities and Special Needs Issues**

7.1. All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of worship. We support our hearing impairment children through the use of audio equipment and the use of British Sign Language. This is an integral part of our worship. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

## **8. Right of withdrawal**

8.1. We expect all children to attend collective worship. 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.

8.2. The head teacher will keep a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Reviewed: Spring 2023

Agreed by Governing Body: Spring 2023

Next Review Spring 2026