



**THE PIGGOTT SCHOOL**  
**Wargrave Secondary & Charvil Primary**

'Go and do Likewise' Luke 10:25- 37, The Parable of the Good Samaritan  
We live with love and compassion, seeking help in times of need

# **Collective Worship**

## **Policy and Procedure 2022 - 25**

**Date last reviewed:** Autumn term 2022

**Approved by the FGB:** 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**Responsibility:** Executive Headteacher (or delegated representative of the school's SLT) and the SMSC Committee

**Review Period:** Triennially

**THIS POLICY WILL HELP THE SCHOOL TO FULFIL ITS AIMS BY:**

- Offering opportunities for children to deepen their faith through prayer.
- Encouraging students to be open to new ideas.
- Providing a caring and reflective environment based on our Christian vision and values.
- Encouraging British values such as mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs, supporting and strengthening what we aim to do in every aspect of school life.
- Supporting the value we place on the development of the whole child, i.e. spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual growth.
- Offering the space and time young people need to develop a spiritual and reflective approach to life, to ponder life's big questions.
- Offering the space for young people to express their reflections in a way that is appropriate in a Church school setting.
- Promoting students' wellbeing and resilience.

**THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS POLICY WILL BE TO:**

Through collective worship we aim to provide an inclusive, invitational and inspiring environment for young people to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community.
- Grow in understanding, respect and tolerance of other people and their beliefs, world views and values.
- Explore the language which people use to express their beliefs, world views and values.
- Deepen their sense of awe and wonder about the world around them.
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school.
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimuli.
- Acknowledge and celebrate diversity and learn from each person's life stance.
- Promoting students' wellbeing and resilience.

**TO FULFIL THIS POLICY THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM AND GOVERNORS OF THE SCHOOL WILL ENSURE THAT:**

- all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day.
- acts of worship are inclusive, invitational and inspiring, and wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character for the majority of the time and allow for an appropriate response without coercion.
- acts of worship are appropriate, with regard to the age, aptitude and background of the young people involved.
- the faith background of both the staff and the young people is respected at all times.
- Acts of worship are creative and may include Art, music, dance, drama, storytelling, prayer and stillness.

**Procedures:**

- Acts of worship are rooted in theology and offers an appreciation of the relevance of faith in today's world.
- There are 2 assemblies each week for every pupil in the school on the Wargrave site and each day for the Charvil site.

- In addition, form tutors and their groups engage in ‘Thought for the Week’ reflections, spiritual time and ‘Learning for Life’ during tutor time during morning registration.
- Acts of worship are also arranged for special occasions e.g. Remembrance Service, Christmas and Easter service.
- Staff, local clergy, youth workers, students or visitors lead Year Group assemblies each week. Students are encouraged to take an active part in both planning and leading acts of collective worship.
- The school year has been divided into weekly themes, which encompass religious festivals, national or international events, and themes and to develop the values of each individual, including British values of democracy, rule of law, individuality, respect and tolerance.
- The school arranges a prayer meeting/Eucharist service on a half-termly basis which is open to all staff, pupils and parents.
- An annual collective worship plan is developed and followed and it includes the trinitarian nature of God and the teachings of Jesus.
- Every day includes an opportunity for the school community to reflect, pray and be still. These collective pauses allow the heartbeat of the school to be heard.
- Pupils are encouraged to lead prayer. Relevant adaptions are made for those pupils with disability to ensure active participation, where required.
- Worship, personal development and spirituality is facilitated through the model of Windows, Mirrors and Doors leading to deep spiritual and personal growth.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- The Executive Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body.
- The nominated member of staff is responsible for oversight of the annual collective worship plan and thoughts of the week. This is discussed by the Pastoral Leadership Group, which also provides an opportunity for Heads of Year to give feedback from Year Teams about assemblies.
- Form Tutors follow the Theme of the Week reflections in tutor time.
- All Teaching Staff are required to attend Collective Worship unless they have formally withdrawn from them by putting their request in writing and meeting with the Executive Headteacher.
- Parents of a pupil have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship the school will comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Headteacher.
- The Education and Inspection Act 2006 makes provision for pupils in post-16 education to exercise the right to withdraw themselves from the daily act of collective worship, but not from assembly.
- The Executive Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that parents are reminded on an annual basis of the content of this policy.

## **DISSEMINATION:**

This policy is shared with all staff through the School’s Staff Handbook. This policy is available on the school’s website for parents and the wider community to view.

**In planning worship, a range of resources are drawn upon, including:**

- Pupils' contributions
- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Drama/dance
- Prayer/meditation/songs/ music
- Artefacts/natural materials
- Visual aids/focal points
- Dialogue/creative silence
- Visitors

## **SONG/MUSIC**

Song/music is a very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the school community. When appropriate, music from a variety of cultures and types is used and selected carefully to match the theme.

## **PRAYER/REFLECTION**

- Prayer is a good way of enabling children to deepen their faith; students are not required to say or affirm prayers if they have a differing world view.
- Various forms of introduction to prayers are used to give young people the opportunity to participate if they so desire; e.g., 'And now in a moment of stillness, listen to the words of a well known Christian prayer...'
- The use of regular moments of silence and reflection provides opportunities for young people to grow spiritually, connect and replenish their reservoirs of hope.