



## Silverdale St John's CE Primary School Collective Worship Policy

**Silverdale St John's Church of England Primary School Mission Statement:**  
*Inspiring Success through Learning, Community and Faith.*

**We aim to do this through our ethos:**

*We help and support each other in our learning with Christian attitudes of Truth, Love and Respect. We utilise the beautiful environment of Silverdale to enrich our curriculum.*

### **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.

### **Collective Worship**

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly. We regularly encourage the children to plan and lead worship especially for important times in the Church year e.g. Lent, Easter, Advent, etc.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school and beyond. We make links to other faiths when and where they occur naturally.

Our Worship council meet regularly to discuss Collective Worship and assess its effectiveness. They plan how to improve Collective Worship and contribute to planning the overview for each value. They occasionally lead worship and are working towards leading class worship.

### **Organisation**

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school this can be whole school or class worship. We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that collective 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 hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using candles representing the Trinity, music and other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. The headteacher conducts the sessions on Monday and Friday, a member of staff leads worship in song on Tuesdays and each Wednesday, the Vicar of St John's Church leads the worship, Thursday is class worship,

where children and teachers lead and discuss an aspect of Collective worship (set out in the overview linked to the Values, PSHE and Healthy relationships overview) Sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead. We invite other organisations into school to conduct assemblies e.g. NISCU, Sportsreach, and sometimes have one off speakers in to talk to the whole school e.g. a missionary.

We take the themes of our worship from the Core Christian Values that underpin our school ethos. We also weave the traditions of the Christian faith into a year's planning of worship, providing opportunity to reflect on the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our worship build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our worship as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place. During and after worship the worship is evaluated by someone (child, teacher, parent or governor), this is done in the Collective worship evaluation book and read and acted upon where necessary, by the Worship Council, Worship leader and Head teacher.

Worship is organised into a three year rolling programme which includes Values and other aspects of Christian teaching and life.

The Values are:

- Peace
- Endurance
- Forgiveness
- Trust
- Reverence and Respect
- Koinonia
- Compassion
- Hope
- Service
- Humility
- Thankfulness
- Friendship

On Friday our worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in worship by showing their work to the other children and celebrating rewards and achievements that they have earned or made. We also recognise individual children or groups who have shown that they can put a particular Christian Value into practise in school.

Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. **Silverdale St John's CE School** is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children in worship.

Parents are welcome to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children. We welcome governors' attendance at our worship at any time.

Prayers are said during the day in each class, with children encouraged to lead prayer times (e.g. before lunch and at the end of the day). Children are encouraged to join in with all prayers if they want to, if they do not wish to, they are encouraged to sit reflectively and respectfully. The children are invited to perform a prayer drill to begin and end prayer.

## **Right of Withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend 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.

The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

## **Monitoring**

It is the role of the Head Teacher together with the Collective Worship leader and designated school governor to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors on collective worship.

**Date Reviewed: January 2018**

**Date of next review: January 2020**