



## **Embleton Vincent Edwards C of E Primary School**

Policy Collective Worship  
Ratification Date Summer 2020  
Review Date Summer 2022  
Signed

Chair of  
Governors

Collective Worship Coordinator: Ann Popay

The School Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school's aims and ethos:

At Embleton Primary School as a community we provide Support for Life for all our pupils: following Jesus' example of Compassion, Perseverance and Respect.

Compassion – having regard for those less fortunate than we are, having empathy for others when they are struggling, helping others in practical ways when they cannot help themselves.

Perseverance – keeping going in the face of challenge, determination, commitment to a task or a principle, tenacity and stickability, not being defeated by obstacles.

Respect – recognising and valuing difference and diversity, having regard for “the other”, valuing tradition and culture other than our own, taking seriously a responsibility to care for creation, having respect for our own minds and bodies.

Our guiding narrative for Support for Life comes from two key teachings from Matthew's Gospel:

The Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32)

Jesus put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

The tiniest seed has the potential to grow and to be a place where life can flourish.

Furthermore Jesus' teaching about loving our neighbour as ourselves provides a focus for the privilege and responsibility of recognising our mutual responsibility to care for one another. Jesus embodied this in his life and ministry and is our role model. Everyone is our neighbour to be treated with compassion and respect even when we find it difficult. At Vincent Edwards we learn what it means to be a neighbour in a diverse and challenging world.

Matthew 22:34-40

One of the pharisees, a lawyer, asked Jesus him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, '“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

At Embleton Primary School we consider Collective worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the schools distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of all learners.

Therefore Collective Worship at our school is planned to be inspirational and inclusive.

- It is aimed to engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school.
- It regularly includes Biblical material and Christian teaching and this explores and relates to Christian values.
- It has a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity.
- It helps all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- It challenges all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey.
- It incorporates the values of prayer and reflection.
- It contributes significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to".
- It provides an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at our school include opportunities for:

- Fundamental British values
- The whole community to celebrate
- Sharing and experiencing differences
- Developing a culture of learning
- Building a sense of group identity
- Encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility
- A break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet)
- Learning how to behave in a large social group
- Exploring feelings and emotions
- Learning how to perform in front of an audience
- Learning how to respond to a performance

### **Legal Requirements**

The law requires the headteacher and governing body of every school to provide a daily act of collective worship. The school meets this requirement and is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

### **Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

In accordance with legal requirements, parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship on religious grounds. Parents should make their wishes known to the headteacher who will ensure that any pupils who are withdrawn are appropriately supervised while the collective act of worship takes place. It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. Collective worship should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

### **Collective Worship programme**

We recognise the importance of the act of collective worship. We mark out this special time by lighting three candles and use Anglican responses to open and close our worship. We use the Lord's Prayer and other prayers.

Collective worship is presented using a variety of styles and includes music, story, drama, enthusiastic singing, reflection and reverence in prayer time.

As a school we use 'Roots and Fruits', from Imaginor, to structure our worship schedule. This is rooted in Bible teaching and the twelve Christian Values represent the fruit that grows as the teaching is lived out in everyday life. We also use 'Roots and Fruits 2' which focuses on the life and teaching of Jesus. These two Class Worship in Early Years uses 'Jack in the Box' - interactive acts of worship focussing on the Christian values in line with the rest of the school. The 'Roots and Fruits' resources give us a 4-year rolling programme for worship; with a 2-year programme for 'Jack in the Box'.

We also make space for reflection upon the Christian value that we are focussing on. As a class and individually, pupils are encouraged to consider the impact of their learning on their attitudes and behaviour. We do this by following the windows, mirrors and doors strategy. The image of the window symbolises 'looking out'. Children are asked to recall inspirational or significant people and events that have demonstrated the 'value in action'. The symbol of the mirror invites children to reflect, to 'look inside' and to be honest about some challenging questions concerning their own attitudes and actions. The symbol of the door points ahead to the impact that the children's journey of reflection might have on the way they live their lives. It is about the possibility of change and resolving to do something practical that will bring change about.

On alternate weeks we take part in 'Worship by the Waves' - our collective worship at beach school. This gives us regular opportunities to reflect on the awe and wonder of God's creation, whilst experiencing worship beyond the confines of a building.

The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the Church School Council. This group of pupils are involved in the leading and monitoring of Collective worship. The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by the Collective Worship coordinator.

### **Our pattern of Collective Worship**

Monday – Class worship

Tuesday – Prayer and Praise

Wednesday – Alternate weeks - Open the Book Team/Staff led

Thursday – Clergy led

Friday – Alternate weeks – Celebration worship(parents invited)/Worship by the Waves (at beach school)