Harbour Schools Partnership

A guiding light for education

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

South Molton United C of E Primary School

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NB. ‘Trustees’ means the Directors referred to in the Trust’s Articles of Association

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1. HISTORY OF MOST RECENT POLICY CHANGES

Version	Date	Page	Change	Origin of change E.g TU request, change in legislation

2. SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

2.1 In our school, our Christan vision shapes all we do.

2.2 *At South Molton United C of E Primary School we are* ***'Uniquely different, United Together and Universally Prepared-Living Life in all its fullness'****. We promise to* ***ready, respectful*** *and* ***safe****. We value being together as a* ***community*** *to* ***flourish*** *through* ***joy, service*** *and* ***aspiration****.*

2.3 We meet each day for Collective Worship to take time to worship and reflect together, considering our vision and values and how we live these out daily. This ensures that we **unite** together as a **community** each day to understand our **unique** nature, celebrate **joy**, act upon our vision through **service** as **courageous advocates**, **universally** prepare and **aspire** for a future where everyone can **flourish**.

2.4 Collective worship in a church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10), living out the Church of England's Vision for Education (2016). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, developing community and understanding of living well together.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

3.1 In South Molton United C of E Primary School collective worship is central to the life of the school and is shaped by the school's vision and the Anglican foundation of the school. It is well planned so that the whole school family gathers together daily and is engaged on a journey of discovery and spiritual development, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. Collective worship strengthens and supports our school's identity and reaffirms our Christian vision (and associated values of community, joy, service, aspire and flourish).

3.2 For Christians, worship in church is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different, and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

3.3 At South Molton United C of E Primary School collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational, and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

3.4 Through collective worship, pupils and adults will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament, and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (and other faiths1) calendar. Pupils and adults will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.2 We have therefore considered what spirituality and spiritual development means to us as a school and have our own agreed definition and language of spirituality. Our model of spirituality supports us to consider what we experience of the world, what we see inside ourselves and what we can do to be the best people we can be, take care of our world and everyone and everything in it. **Windows** ask us '*What can I notice, encounter or learn?',* **mirrors** encourage us to 'Reflect on our own lives, beliefs, feelings and experiences' and **doors** *'How might I respond or act?'* as further detailed in our school spirituality policy. This enhances and enriches collective worship and individuals' spiritual development.

4. CHURCH OF ENGLAND GUIDANCE

4.1 The collective worship policy at South Molton United C of E Primary School draws on guidance from the Church of England[3.] This guidance document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for church school communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils and adults to flourish. Leaders and governance should ensure that 'collective worship is the unique heartbeat of a Church school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations with God, both as individuals and together.'

5. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

5.1 There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools and academies for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words, the law on collective worship that applies in a

[1] Collective Worship in a CofE school must be in alignment with the religious foundation of the school (Christian), however there is a responsibility for schools in all contexts to mark, respond and learn from the festivals of other faiths. This should be designated as a separate act, not to be conflated with collective worship.

[2] "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 and to devote the will to the purpose of God". William Temple (1881-1894)

[3] https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/collective-worship; https://www.nse.org.uk/curriculum-and-inclusion/collective-worship

community school, "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", is **not** relevant. Worship at South Molton United C of E Primary School should be distinctly Christian, celebrating our Anglican foundation and enabling all members of the school community to explore faith, spirituality, and the values at the heart of the Church of England.

5.2 The Local Governing Body of the school are tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship in enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually, in consultation with the headteacher. They also have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Framework, school policy, local and national guidance.

5.3 They have responsibility to ensure that:

- Collective worship reflects the schools Anglican/Methodist foundation and enables the spiritual flourishing of those in the school community
- The school has a regular and meaningful relationship with the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) accessing expertise and support for collective worship, as well as effective regular partnership with the parish/local church

5.4 Additionally, the trustees/governing body of the school consider the SIAMS sub-questions from IQ3:

a) How do the theologically rooted Christian vision and the Anglican foundation of the school shape worship and spirituality in the school?
b) How do partnerships with the DBE, and partnerships with parish/local church/es enhance this?
c) In what ways is the worship life of the school inclusive, invitational, and inspirational?
d) In the context of the school as a Church school, what do pupils and adults understand to be the meaning of spirituality? How does this enhance and enrich collective worship and individuals' spiritual development?
e) How does the trust contribute to and enhance the school's worship and spiritual life?

6. THE RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

6.1 In (insert name of school) we recognise that some children and families are not Christians and are members of another faith or hold a non-religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that we are invitational and inclusive to all in the community we serve. Collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of all church schools, and the Christian foundation and vision of the school shapes worship and the spirituality in the school. All are warmly welcomed to be part of daily collective worship as part of the school community.

6.2 The 1944, 1988 and 1998 Education Acts state that parents/carers have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

6.3 On occasions, a parent/carer may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from collective worship. There is an expectation that parents/carers wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent/carer would object to the child taking part

- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent/carer will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

6.4 Where parents/carers have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

6.5 If the parent/carer asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply. *(This means that a parent/carer may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)*

7. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

6.1 Collective worship in South Molton United C of E Primary School aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school community.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth and development through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Be central in the life of the school and is shaped by the school's vision and the Anglican foundation of the school.
- Provide opportunities for pupils and adults to be inspired by the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and non-religious beliefs to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief.
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst appreciating that Christians worship in different ways.
- Help pupils to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church's year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving pupils the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well-known Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all pupils and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community.

Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship if it supports their own spiritual development.

- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the diverse work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

8. DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLICY AND LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES & DOCUMENTATION

Our Vision and Values were established and are updated by representatives of all key stakeholders in our school and church community including members of the clergy, governors, school leaders, staff, parents and members of our Pupil Ethos Group and Ethos Committee. Our Ethos Committee meets termly to consider all documentation including policies and planning and they are shared at termly governor meetings also. Our Foundation Governor reports to the Local Governing Body on our Christian Distinctiveness. Documents that have informed this policy include our SIAMs SEF, Flourishing Peer Evaluation, Collective Worship Planning, Spirituality and RE Policies and the Devon and Torbay agreed Syllabus for RE 2024-2029.

8.1 We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- Spiritual development, SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents and carers
- Working with the wider community

8.1 We also ensure that information about collective worship is included in the school prospectus and / or on the school website.

9. HOW COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IS ORGANISED

9.1 Leadership

9.1.1 Member of staff responsible for collective worship is Kate Harvey, Headteacher.

Monday-Headteacher
Tuesday-Class Led
Wednesday-Open the Book (Church Team)
Thursday-Clergy
Friday- Headteacher (Celebration Collective Worship)

Support and guidance is given to visitors leading worship. An information leaflet for visitors is produced by the Diocese.

9.2 Planning

An annual Collective Worship plan has been honed over time so that it reflects the revised, half-termly focused Christian values, links to spirituality, British Values and protected Characteristics. The Collective Lead is responsible for planning and timetabling with input from clergy, staff and pupils. Pupils are empowered to contribute and lead worships as part of their class or their role as a member of the Pupil Ethos Group or as a Prefect. PEG and Prefects meet weekly; the Ethos Committee and Local Governing Body meet termly to discuss and monitor the school's Christian distinctiveness. Collective Worship is built around our vision and values that are expressed and reflected upon daily. Explicit links are made between bible stories and the Christian value of the school. The cycle of the Christian calendar and specified church services are scheduled in Collective Worship planning. Wide ranging resources are used for Collective Worship such as websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, news stories and focal points of our bible, cross and candles. Spiritual growth and development is nurtured through prayer, stillness and reflection, creativity, song, dance and music. Staff have access to high-quality resources and training to support planning including Natre, P4C and Picture News. Opportunities are provided for children and adults to explore faith in today's world by considering current events that are impacting the local, regional, national and global community. Collective worship follows a planned and consistent pattern that reflects the traditions and practices of the Anglican Church, including the use of prayer, liturgy, the Christian year, scripture, and reflection. Through this pattern of worship, pupils are given opportunities to explore the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, developing their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God and its significance for Christian belief and daily life.

9.3 Organisation

- Collective Worship is held from 1:10pm until 1:40pm each day each day other than Wednesday when it is held between 9am and 9:20am.
- Collective Worship is generally held in the school hall so that the school community can meet collectively. The school also has extensive grounds which can also be used for worship and a strong link with St Mary Magdelene Church where our services are held. These are Harvest, Christmas, Pentecost and End of Year Leavers services and all include elements performed by pupils. An Easter service is held at school which is a showcase of creativity as each class tells a part of the story.
- Children are seated with Year Six on benches at the back in year group order with Reception sitting at the front.
- Our Nursery class does not attend Collective Worship and on some days our Reception class has their worship in their classroom.
- The children know that Collective Worship is a time for quiet reflection and enter and leave the hall respectfully, silently or singing. We encourage Oracy through Collective Worship inviting the children to talk with peers and staff considering prompt questions. Children stand to share their views and 'build on' those of others.
- PEG starts each worship with the greeting '**Peace be with you'**, the whole school response is '**and also with you'**. PEG then share our vision and values with accompanying actions. The use of Anglican rituals and liturgical responses enable pupils and adults to participate actively and confidently in worship.
- Liturgical colours associated with the seasons of the Church Year are used to enhance pupil understanding of the Christian calendar.
- Christian signs and symbols, including the cross, candles, music, and carefully prepared focal points to create a meaningful worship space.

- Opportunities for prayer, reflection, stillness and spiritual growth are presented within a recognisable and consistent pattern of worship.
- Worship includes engagement with scripture, Christian teachings and the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

9.4 Role & Responsibilities
Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body

The governing body has overall responsibility for ensuring that collective worship is provided in accordance with the school's foundation as a Church of England school and statutory requirements. Governors should:

- Ensure that collective worship is distinctly Christian and reflects Anglican tradition and practice.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and impact of collective worship through regular review.
- Support the Christian vision and values of the school through worship.
- Ensure that appropriate resources, training and support are available for those leading worship.
- Appoint a link governor for collective worship, where appropriate, to work alongside school leaders in monitoring provision.

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team

The Headteacher, supported by the senior leadership team, is responsible for the strategic leadership and implementation of collective worship. They should:

- Ensure that collective worship is planned and delivered in line with the school's Christian vision and Anglican foundation.
- Establish and monitor a clear pattern of worship that reflects the Christian year, Anglican traditions and the school's values.
- Support staff, clergy and pupils in leading worship.
- Monitor the quality and impact of collective worship and identify areas for development.
- Promote opportunities for pupil leadership and participation in worship.
- Ensure that worship is inclusive, invitational and inspirational for all members of the school community.

Clergy and Church Partners

Clergy and church partners play a vital role in strengthening the relationship between the school and the local church community. They should:

- Contribute regularly to the planning and leadership of collective worship.
- Model Anglican worship traditions and practices.
- Support pupils and staff in exploring Christian faith, spirituality and the Trinitarian nature of God.
- Help pupils make connections between worship, Christian values and everyday life.
- Support the development of the school's Christian distinctiveness and links with the parish church.

Teaching and Support Staff

All staff contribute to the ethos and effectiveness of collective worship. They should:

- Participate respectfully and positively in acts of collective worship.

- Support and model the school's Christian vision and values.
- Lead worship when appropriate and contribute to its planning and evaluation.
- Encourage pupil engagement, reflection and spiritual development.
- Foster an atmosphere that values prayer, reflection and respectful participation.

Pupils
Pupils are active participants in collective worship and should:

- Engage respectfully in worship and reflection.
- Contribute ideas, prayers, readings, music and other elements of worship.
- Take opportunities to lead aspects of worship where appropriate.
- Reflect on how the school's Christian values influence their attitudes, relationships and actions.
- Share feedback to help shape and improve collective worship.

Parents and Carers
Parents and carers are important partners in supporting the Christian life of the school. They should:

- Respect and support the school's foundation and approach to collective worship.
- Encourage children to engage positively with opportunities for worship and reflection.
- Participate in special acts of worship and celebrations when invited.
- Discuss any concerns with the Headteacher.

Visitors
Visitors who contribute to collective worship should:

- Respect the Christian vision, values and Anglican foundation of the school.
- Ensure that contributions are appropriate to the aims and ethos of collective worship.
- Work in partnership with staff to provide worship that is engaging, relevant and inclusive.
- Avoid promoting personal beliefs or organisations in a way that is inconsistent with the school's Christian character.
- Support pupils' spiritual development through meaningful and respectful contributions.

All members of the school community share responsibility for ensuring that collective worship remains a central expression of the school's Christian vision, reflecting its Anglican foundation and enabling every individual to encounter opportunities for reflection, spirituality, and personal growth.

9.5 Staff Development & Training

9.5.1 We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. Support and training should also be made available to partners from the local church who lead worship.

9.5.2 The school's named lead for collective worship accesses updates and training through the optional annual training offered by the diocesan education team and through the termly diocesan update meetings.

The Collective Worship Lead develops ongoing CPD for all staff members including master materials for Collective Worship and modelled worships to build confidence for Teachers and pupils leading Class-Led worship. PEG pupils support Collective Worships by leading greetings, providing in worship support such as giving our certificates and badges and supporting with presentations. Provision for RE and Spirituality is developed through Teaching and Learning meetings such as refining resources and vocabulary lists for RE and ensuring there is a mirrors, windows and door moment on learning organisers for all subjects.

9.6 Monitoring and evaluation

Collective Worship is monitored in a variety of ways including through governor visits, pupil conferencing, parent/pupil and staff survey and THSP annual peer 'Flourishing Walks'. The school Ethos Group meets weekly and the Headteacher/Collective Worship lead attends termly Ethos networks, the Ethos committee and Local Governing body also meet termly. This information is recorded on Governor visit notes, Foundation Governor reports and Peer Flourishing Walk forms and contribute to the school's SIAMs Self-Evaluation. This collection of evidence demonstrates how the monitoring and evaluation of worship has led to its strengthening and development over time and supports the school Collective Worship portfolio for SIAMS inspections.

10. DISSEMINATING AND REVIEWING THE POLICY

10.1 We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents, and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website. This policy will be reviewed every 3 years or earlier if there is a significant change to the current legislation or guidance.