

# Mottram CE Primary School

## POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

### Aims and Objectives

At Mottram Church of England Primary School we always seek to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school and its care for all who work here. Children are helped to understand the meaning of Christian worship and we hope that believers in any faith or those of no faith will reach the 'threshold of worship'.

Our central aims of collective worship (*as detailed in the Diocesan guideline*) are to:

- enable children and staff to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition
- lead the school community to the 'threshold of worship' in order for all to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- use celebration, silence, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery for worship and spiritual growth
- use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate and lead worship
- encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework by learning more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ through worship
- to begin to raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith
- reaffirm, strengthen and practise key Christian values. (e.g. love, peace, compassion, forgiveness, self giving) and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God
- nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally
- seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation and appreciation
- develop a sense of community within the school, the locality, (e.g. local church) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions
- foster a concern for the needs of others

Within our daily act of collective worship, we aim to provide opportunities to:

- provide an opportunity to worship God
- celebrate all that is good and beautiful and express thankfulness for the joy of being alive
- share what is meaningful and significant in life

- ensure that the experiences provided are relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the children
- give time for silent reflection
- illustrate forms of worship that others have found helpful in their spiritual development, e.g. silent contemplation, dance, singing
- provide a rich variety of forms of expression, e.g. art, drama, music, story and give the opportunity to experience these at our own levels
- remember that children will be at different stages of spiritual development and that they should feel able to respond and participate at their own level

*(National Society Web site, 2007)*

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review.**

#### **Monitoring**

Monitoring of collective worship may include:

- written observations; making sure that practice matches planning
- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- conducting occasional formal observations (learning walks) of collective worship and providing feedback
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents/carers, governors, vicar and visitors
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- holding regular discussions with colleagues

Collective Worship will be reviewed, termly.

#### **Evaluation**

The information gathered will be analysed in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the collective worship. The worship co-ordinator and the vicar will be the main evaluators. Formal evaluation of collective worship will take place at least annually.

#### **Review**

The Headteacher, governors and staff will review this policy every three years. A record of collective worship ensures that acts of worship are generally compatible with the requirements of the policy. These will regularly include any formal and informal evaluations of acts of collective worship which will assist monitoring, future planning and delivery.

#### **Inclusion and Equal Opportunities**

A daily act of collective worship is held for all children regardless of their background, culture or religion. Every effort is made by the school to involve all children unless withdrawn by their parents/carers in accordance with the law.

### **The right of withdrawal**

The parents'/carers' legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship is clearly laid out in the school prospectus. If there are any children whose parents exercise their right to withdraw them from worship alternative activities will be provided. Children will not be exempt from the Christian ethos of the school which underpins the whole of school life. Parents/carers are made fully aware of this when they start school.

### **Responsibilities**

The Headteacher and governing body of the school ensures that a daily act of collective worship takes place. At Mottram Church of England Primary School the responsibility to co-ordinate the acts of worship is delegated to the collective worship co-ordinator. She plans themes, invites and liaises with visiting speakers and keeps a record of the content of each act of collective worship. Monitoring and evaluation is the responsibility of the worship co-ordinator. Staff leading collective worship will provide plans each half term.

### **Conclusion**

At Mottram Church of England Primary School, collective worship is very important to us and every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take an active part in a daily act of collective worship. Worship may contain many elements but at Mottram Primary School we seek to specifically ensure that the act of collective worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter.

### **Signature and date**

Policy last reviewed: November 2015

Next review date: November 2018

Worship Co-ordinator: Mrs Esther Bland

Governor responsible for collective worship: Rev. James Halstead