



THE PIGGOTT SCHOOL

*'...to be a school which inspires and encourages the highest achievement'*

# Collective Worship

## Policy and Procedure 2021

**Date last reviewed:** Spring term 2021

**Approved by the SMSC Committee:** 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021

**Noted by the FGB:** 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Note

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

**Review Period:** Annually

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

- encouraging students to be open to new ideas
- providing a caring and reflective environment based on Christian 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 young people need to develop a reflective approach to life
- offering the space for young people to express their reflections in a way that is appropriate in a church school setting.
- Promote students' wellbeing.

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

Through collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for young people to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in understanding of other people and their beliefs and values
- Explore the language which people use to express their beliefs and values
- Deepen their sense of 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
- Promote students' wellbeing

**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 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.

**Procedures:**

- There are 1-2 assemblies each week for every pupil in the school on the Wargrave Campus and most days for the Charvil Campus.
- In addition form tutors and their groups engage in 'Thought for the Week' reflections and 'Learning for Life' during tutor time during morning registration.
- The Headteacher or other senior staff lead the whole school worship at least once a term. In addition acts of worship are arranged for special occasions e.g. Remembrance Service, Christmas, Easter.

- Heads of Year or Key Stage, members of the Senior Team, Form Tutors or visitors lead Year Group assemblies each week. Students are encouraged to take an active part in both planning and leading an act 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.

### **Procedures at Charvil site**

- There is a daily act of collective worship
  - Monday Deputy Headteacher assembly
  - Tuesday member of the clergy
  - Wednesday Singing assembly
  - Thursday class assembly
  - Friday Headteacher's celebration assembly
- Pupils are encouraged to come to the front and to lead the rest of assembly in prayer
- The school year has been divided into weekly themes, which encompass religious festivals, national or international events and themes to develop the values of each individual, including British values of democracy, rule of law, individuality, respect and tolerance. At Charvil we broadly follow the same themes as The Piggott School, but make them relevant to primary as needed. The RE co-ordinator oversees the Collective Worship plan.
- A prayer/reflection is said at each act of collective worship and a song is sung at each act of collective worship.

### **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- The Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body.
- The Deputy Headteacher is responsible for planning the calendar of themes and 'Thought for the Day' activities on a termly basis. 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 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 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 assemblies, 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**

- Whilst prayer is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts, students are not required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe.
- 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 is encouraged, providing opportunities for the young people to respond.