



# The Federation of The Downs & Northbourne Church of England Primary Schools

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## *Collective Worship Policy*

### **School Mission Statement Federation of The Downs and Northbourne CEP Schools**

Our mission is to create a school in which every member feels valued, irrespective of their race, gender or disability and where the development of the whole child is paramount.

We expect high standards from all, and try to provide the maximum opportunities for every member to fulfil their individual potential. Our Christian ethos encompasses tolerance and cultural diversity which will enable us to embrace the challenges of our world.

We strive to make our learning and working environment a safe, but vibrant and stimulating place from which children can begin their journey of lifelong learning.

<b>Last Review Date: Jan 2018</b>	<b>Next Review Date:</b>			
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### **Introduction**

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our schools, reaffirms our values of faith, love, forgiveness, compassion, kindness and respect, and celebrates the central role that each child to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

### **Aims**

Collective worship at our federation, will support the school's Mission Statement, by providing opportunities for members of the school community:

- to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life
- to reflect on their own beliefs
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to encounter God in Jesus Christ
- to reflect in ways that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognising the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions, belief systems and other world views.
- to nurture a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it

- to take responsibility for their own conduct, charitable giving, and social actions so that they might contribute positively to a multi-diverse society
- to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of students coming together
- to experience silence in a busy world
- to encourage inquisitive engagement with, and reflection on the Holy Bible.

## The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection
- Using Psalms with simple responses

We may also use elements which are more distinctively Anglican:

- Using prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and end of worship
- Using Collects as a focus for worship
- Celebrating Eucharist

## Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement. In accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988, each school must provide a broadly Christian act of collective worship for all pupils every day. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class.

Collective worship is planned and undertaken by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbents of our local churches and external visitors such as Church leaders of other Christian denominations in consultation with the Collective Worship Leader. Our schools plan, systematically and cohesively, broadly using the Canterbury Diocese Collective Worship Planning, Simply Worship and other materials, which are adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and enables continuity. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies: (*These are available from our website*). This includes discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

At **The Downs** we meet as a whole school every Monday morning, and worship is generally led by either a senior member of staff or guest speaker, supported by pupils.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, each year group gathers together in a classroom or shared area to share worship with their class teachers.

On Wednesdays, each Team gather together in the hall for Song and Praise.

On Fridays, each Team gather together in the hall which is led by a senior teacher, and on a rota basis, there is a celebration of work with parents.

Our incumbent visits each year group on a rota basis every week where they worship together and also have the opportunity to explore some of the issues raised by the Big Questions.

At **Northbourne**, we meet as a whole school on Monday morning, and worship is generally led by either a senior member of staff or a guest speaker, supported by pupils.

On Tuesdays, a member of the local clergy leads whole school worship.

On Wednesdays the school comes together for Songs and Praise.

On Thursdays it is class worship.

On Fridays the whole school meet together in the afternoon for Celebration to which parents are invited.

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including; music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT etc.

Our worship consists of 4 stages:

- *Gather* – we welcome the community with music , liturgy and the lighting of a candle
- *Engage* – we share a bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message
- *Respond* -- pupils discuss, share , reflect , pray or sing
- *Send* – we share the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with liturgy, final prayer, music and the blowing out of our special candle.

Expectations of pupils:

Pupils are involved with the planning and leading of worship on a voluntary basis, as part of their “responsibilities” and as part of the wider curriculum. They work with the Collective Worship Leader, or another member of staff, which helps them to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers. Messy Church is also currently available as an after school club at The Downs.

## **Developing Worship**

The school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of collective worship. The Collective Worship Leader attends regular professional development with Canterbury Diocese and accesses a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.

## **Self-assessment and Inspection**

Our federation regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our Pupil Voice interviews and questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our FGB and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school.

Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Canterbury.

## **Parental Withdrawal**

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as church schools. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none, and is in no way intended to evangelise or proselytise.

We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship on grounds of conscience. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

Date of validation..... Signed.....

Date of review.....  
Chair of Governors  
Signed.....  
Chair of Governors