



**Kirkoswald Cof E School**

**Collective Worship Policy**

Trust

Friendship

Forgiveness

## Kirkoswald Church of England

### **Collective Worship Policy**

The collective worship policy at Kirkoswald CE School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the local authority through its SACRE. Collective worship is a valued and valuable part of school life and is taken seriously, because it shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

#### **Aims of collective worship**

Collective worship in Kirkoswald CE School aims to provide the opportunity for pupils and staff to:

- experience a variety of styles of worship;
- celebrate together e.g. festivals, school values, individual achievements;
- build a sense of community/foster corporate identity;
- develop a reflective approach to living which sometimes encourages understanding of and invitation to prayer;
- look beyond the physical, material and measurable;
- worship God or reflect on human values;
- consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship;
- feel safe and affirmed in doing any of the above.

#### **Statutory requirements**

By law, Collective Worship must :

- take place for every child not withdrawn by their parents (post 16 students can withdraw themselves) every day;
- be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character;
- take account of the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils;
- take place on the school premises, except on occasions, with agreement of governors.

Therefore, at Kirkoswald CE School our collective worship reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time given to any subject including religious education. However, in Kirkoswald CE School, we aim to enable collective worship and aspects of children's classroom learning to be mutually supportive. Collective worship provides opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in line with school policy. To achieve this it addresses a wide variety of themes and topics, uses diverse stimuli and resources and provides pupils with opportunities to 'respond' at their own level

#### **The Management of Collective Worship**

The Headteacher is responsible for the provision of collective worship, supported by and after consultation with the governing body.

The Organisation of Collective Worship Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings in the classroom. Acts of worship usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognized that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

#### **Leadership**

Every member of the school staff, pupils and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

#### **Planning Acts of Collective Worship**

The content of all acts of collective worship is considered carefully to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Visitors are welcomed to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy.

#### **The Act of Collective Worship**

We use a variety of styles, active and interactive methods and a range of resources in our acts of collective worship. Leaders make decisions about these elements according to what is most appropriate to the content, the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils. Where prayer is included in our acts of worship it is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to 'God' rather than Jesus as this is inclusive of the beliefs of our non-Christian religious pupils. We hope that pupils who prefer not to pray will use these moments to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship. Collective worship should not be confused with

assembly. We often take the opportunity of pupils gathered together to share announcements and notices. Using a variety of strategies e.g. music, silence etc. we indicate clearly to all present when worship begins and ends.

### **Withdrawal**

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship and staff are also free to withdraw from involvement in this aspect of school life. We request that those who wish to exercise this right inform the Head Teacher in writing so that school records are accurate. We also appreciate opportunities to speak with parents and staff who have concerns about collective worship, always keen to develop our understanding of sensitivities and to overcome difficulties where possible. Those pupils who are withdrawn from worship are cared for by a member of the school's staff; parents may provide suitable activities for children so withdrawn.

