

# Collective Worship Policy



## Costock CE Primary School

Where every child is a star! 

**'As God's children, we shine like Stars' Philippians 2 v.15**

### Our Promise

**Every day at Costock Church School we are experiencing and learning;**

**Service to God, each other and ourselves, Truth, Agape and Respect**

**As we leave each day we take these Christian Values with us**

**Approved by:** C&P **Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Last reviewed on:** Spring Term 2024

**Next review due by:** Spring Term 2027

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## Introduction

At Costock Church of England School we are committed to valuing and nurturing each child as an individual who will achieve their best and develop an enthusiasm for lifelong learning. Our vision is for the children in our school to grow into responsible, caring and fulfilled adults who actively and positively contribute to the society in which they live. We are committed to raising standards, values and self-esteem for all those involved with our school through cultivating a secure, yet exciting environment that is positive, supportive, stimulating and enriching.

As a Church of England Primary School we see our Collective Worship as a central part of school life. Our worship is about engaging with God on a daily basis, which impacts our life together in school as well as influencing how we act out of it, linking with the Diocesan vision strand of 'Living Worship': giving God the glory and honour in our life together and out in the world. In line with the DfES circular (1/94), which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base our collective worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church.

## Values

Our school curriculum is underpinned by the values that we hold dear. Within our school, everyone is equally valued and treated with respect. We believe that everyone is made in the image of God, which means that everyone has an equal opportunity to achieve and will be challenged and supported to ensure that they continue to grow and learn within all areas of the curriculum.

Our four main school values are **Service, Truth, Agape and Respect**. However, as a school we feel that there are a number of Christian values that are particularly important to how we carry out our lives, both in and out of school (See Appendix). The sixteen values are grouped together to be covered over a few weeks, however they are re-visited regularly during our daily acts of worship. These values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." This is the first commandment. And the second, is this: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these. Mark 12 v30-31.

## Purpose of Collective Worship

Our aim is that our worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all children and staff. We provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils which enables them to:

- Affirm the Christian faith;
- Provide the opportunity for praise and thanksgiving to God;
- Encourage a sense of unity by providing the opportunity for the whole school community to meet together;
- Express and apply Christian values;
- Provide an opportunity for awe and wonder, reflection and mystery;
- Have a time of response and experience stillness and quiet;
- Develop a knowledge of the Bible and Christian teaching;
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements of pupils inside and outside of school, to celebrate that all pupils are unique.

## **Organisation**

We follow a 3 year rolling cycle of collective worship. All worship begins at 3.00pm in the school hall with all classes present. The hall setting reflects the centrality of worship to all that we do in school.

Our current schedule for collective worship is as follows:

Monday- whole school worship is led by staff members linked to the current value (mainly following the 'Roots and Fruits' Collective Worship scheme)

Tuesday- British Values Worship led by staff members

Wednesday- SEAL Worship led by RE and Collective Worship Co-ordinator

Thursday- Singing Worship led by staff members

Friday- Celebration Worship led by the Headteacher

## **Special Services and Visitors**

We value our links with the staff and congregation of St Giles Church, Costock. We hold our Harvest, Remembrance Day Christmas, Easter and Leavers services in the church. The vicar

For key festivals (Harvest, Christmas and Easter) we look to worship as a wider community at St Giles Parish Church in Costock. The vicar and one of the readers at St Giles Church regularly lead worship and always attend our services in the church.

## **Responsibilities**

### 1. Headteacher:

- Will liaise with the co-ordinator to plan each term's collective worship, ensuring that the key themes and the content of any materials are in keeping with the Christian ethos of the school;
- Will lead at least one collective worship per week;
- Oversee all acts of collective worship to ensure that the quality of delivery is of a consistently high standard.

### 2. Collective Worship Co-ordinator:

- Will communicate with teachers and visitors to ensure that key themes are fully understood;
- Will liaise with the Headteacher to identify themes, ensuring that quality materials are available to support delivery;
- Will liaise with the Headteacher to support colleagues on the delivery of collective worship, identifying training needs when required;
- Will monitor the effectiveness of acts of worship and evaluate their impact;
- Will ensure all staff recognise the need to develop themes and content beyond collective worship.

### 3. Incumbent:

- Will ensure that collective worship is consistent with the school's trust deed;
- Will monitor the quality of collective worship;
- Will provide support to the Headteacher and Co-ordinator in deciding the content and materials for collective worship;
- Will regularly lead an act of worship.

### 4. Governors:

- Will fulfil their statutory duty, ensuring that collective worship meets legal requirements.

## **Evaluation**

The staff leading worship evaluates the materials in order to assist in future planning. Children, staff, parents/carers and governors are invited to respond in a variety of ways:

- Individually;
- Small groups;
- Questionnaires;
- Comments from pupils, staff, parents or governors

## **Inclusion and Withdrawal**

At Costock Church of England Primary School we believe that we are all made in the image of God and therefore everyone deserves to be treated equally and with respect at all times. This underpins all of the school's beliefs and actions regarding equal opportunities for all.

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupil's beliefs. Whilst the teaching will reflect Christian doctrine, many of the themes and values will be inclusive to those of other or no faith, for example loving your neighbour, caring for others, taking care of the environment etc.

As in all areas of school life, we will make appropriate provision to overcome all barriers to learning and ensure pupils with SEND are able to access collective worship.

We conduct our worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from acts of worship, either partially or wholly. Before making the decision to exercise that right parents are encouraged to discuss the issues with the Headteacher. Staff also have the right to withdraw on grounds of conscience but we hope that all staff will feel able to support the Christian ethos of the school by participating in collective worship.

## Appendix- Costock Church of England Primary School Christian Values

1. **Service** - pupils are encouraged to understand the idea of service and how they can support the school community, the local community and the international community through charity.
2. **Truth**- pupils are encouraged to pursue truthfulness and promote honesty at all times.
3. **Acceptance**- pupils are encouraged to show respect and tolerance to others.
4. **Respect**- pupils are encouraged how to treat and respect others, including respecting people's opinions and faiths.
5. **Generosity**- pupils are encouraged to show generosity through kindness and giving, whether this is through time, support or charity.
6. **Responsibility**- pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and their learning. They are also encouraged to think about being a good citizen and caring for our environment.
7. **Compassion**- pupils are encouraged to show understanding of others less fortunate than themselves and show kindness and empathy.
8. **Thankfulness**- pupils are encouraged to self-reflect for what they are thankful for and to write their own prayers of thanks for whole school worship.
9. **Courage**- pupils are encouraged to show courage and bravery through trying new experiences and pushing themselves to achieve their potential.
10. **Hope**- pupils are encouraged to think how things in their own personal world or the wider world can be better and what they can do to change these things.
11. **Perseverance**- at Costock School we work together to overcome any obstacles, however challenging, to achieve our goals. We try and try again, building resilience which helps us deal with any disappointments on our journey to success.
12. **Forgiveness**- pupils are encouraged to forgive others and reflect on others actions with mercy and grace. Forgiveness is one of the many values encouraged through the school's behaviour policy.
13. **Friendship**- pupils are encouraged to be the best friend they can be by showing kindness and thoughtfulness of others.
14. **Trust**- pupils are encouraged to trust one another and have a firm belief in the school and its systems, resulting in pupils who are positive and confident in their learning.
15. **Humility**- pupils are encouraged to think of others before themselves.
16. **Wisdom**- pupils are encouraged to listen to others to help give advice and that God can help them to live their lives wisely.