



# **Ebchester C.E. Primary School**

## **Collective Worship Policy**

September 2023

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**‘Love your neighbour as yourself’ – Matthew 22:39**

‘At Ebchester CE Primary School, love lies at the centre of everything we do. Following the example set by Jesus, we create a culture of compassion. Every individual is valued, respected and cared for so that pupils can flourish into successful learners, caring individuals and responsible citizens’.

### **Introduction**

Collective Worship at Ebchester Church of England Primary School takes place daily in accordance with provisions of the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998. The staff and governors of Ebchester C.E. Primary School see the main purpose of the school is that of providing a high standard of education, both academic and social, in a Christian context, ensuring that this provision is made available to all of its pupils. It is an important aim of the school to nurture a sense of personal worth for all its pupils through encouraging them to do their best in order to fulfill their individual potential; recognition of effort, attitude and commitment being as worthy of merit as high levels of achievement.

### **Aims**

- Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
- Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered.
- Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to discussions on key themes and topics, e.g. morality. Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection.
- Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual’s life stance, whether religious or not.
- Promote a common ethos and shared values.

### **Definition**

Collective worship and assembly are not the same, although worship may be part of an assembly. Collective worship is defined as worship appropriate to a group of individuals possessing a range of beliefs, believers and non-believers. Collective worship at Ebchester C.E. Primary School will take place daily. Styles may vary from day to day though it is intended that the various forms will together promote the spiritual and moral development of pupils.

Whilst acknowledging the desirability to show respect and regard for other religions. As a church school, collective worship at Ebchester CE Primary School has a distinctly Christian orientation.

### **Expectations of pupils**

During Collective Worship pupils will be given opportunities for:

- individual response and reflection
- listening and thinking about the world, themselves and others;
- introducing pupils to the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and beliefs;
- sharing in experiences of e.g. sadness, excitement, joy, thankfulness,
- togetherness and challenge;
- silence, stillness, mediation, contemplation and, if appropriate, prayer;
- celebration of the shared values in the school community
- to lead and shape worship on a regular basis

### Anglican Tradition

As a Church of England Primary School, we include the following Christian elements of collective worship:

- Using the Bible, either as a source book, or as an inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year -Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints Days
- Learning and saying traditional prayers, in particular the Lord's Prayer
- Singing a wide variety of hymns
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine, colours of the church year
- The use of readings, poetry, prayer, silence and reflection
- Using Anglican sentences and responses e.g. *May the Lord be with you / and also with you*

### Timetable

Each week, Collective Worship focuses on a Christian value and linked Bible story. Acts of worship link through this story and class worship allows time more reflection for children in a smaller group. Picture news worship is linked to a topical theme in the news each week and contributes to the children's wider understanding of the world, global issues, courageous advocacy and mental well-being. In our final worship of the week, Pupils take a 'Journey through the Bible' where they explore Bible stories in sequence and have an opportunity to discuss the lessons we can learn from the stories and how we can relate them to our day to day lives.

Monday	Whole School worship led by the Headteacher – introduces the Christian value and Bible story to be cover that week.
Tuesday	Class worship focusing on the Bible story of the week – provides pupils with the opportunity to discuss and reflect on the story.
Wednesday	Prayer space/ Community Worship/ Class Led Worship
Thursday	Picture News Worship
Friday	Our Bible Journey – Class worship taking pupils on a journey through the Bible

At Ebchester CE Primary School, we begin our school day with an act of worship.

At the time of Worship a candle will be lit as a clear visual focus for the children to reflect upon.

Lunchtime prayers are said in the dining hall prior to lunch. "End of day" prayers are observed in all classes prior to dismissal at the end of the school day.

## **Planning**

The planning is in line with the Church of England Guidelines on Collective Worship. We plan worship across the week to build on a particular value in order for children to deeply reflect on a particular idea. Bible scripture is central to our worship sessions and helps to provide context or examples to support children's understanding of more complex/abstract ideas.

The structure of our collective worship is as follows:

- Gather
- Engage
- Reflect
- Respond

## **Resources**

These include books, prayers, CDs and an interactive whiteboard. We use materials from Big Start assemblies, Roots and Shoots and Picture news along with Bible scripture, objects and images on which to base our worship. The school visits St Ebba's Church at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and at the end of the school year. Year 6 pupils attend the Leavers' Service in Durham Cathedral to share worship with other Diocesan schools; this is led by the Diocesan Board of Education.

## **The RE Team**

We have a school worship committee, known as our RE Team, which is made up of pupil volunteers from all year groups. Their role is to lead and develop collective worship, plan prayer space events/days, set up and monitor our prayer spaces and to help evaluate collective worship.

## **Entitlement**

At Ebchester C.E. Primary School, we believe that collective worship is an important part of every child's spiritual development and all pupils regardless of race, gender, physical or academic ability are entitled to participate. Every attempt is made, therefore to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities and interests.

## **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**

Collective Worship at Ebchester C.E. Primary School is totally inclusive. All ages and abilities are provided for in planning and delivery of Collective Worship.

## **Equal Opportunities**

Our school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes and values. It is about affirming the equality of each individual in God's sight, whatever a child's gender, ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

## **Right of Withdrawal**

The main aim of Collective Worship at Ebchester C.E. Primary School is for it to be meaningful and relevant for all pupils and staff; for those with faith, and for those with none. It is therefore hoped that parents will not exercise the right they have to remove their child from Collective Worship, but we acknowledge the right that they have to remove their child without any explanation. Any child who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

## **Assessment and Review/Evaluation**

- The acts of worship will be evaluated by the head teacher, collective worship leader, governors, staff and children on a regular basis. Worship will be monitored to ensure that:
- Agreed and planned content is being covered
- A variety of approaches and methodology are used
- High standards and quality are maintained
- Collective Worship has been led by a variety of staff
- Evaluation of parent and pupils' reactions

Members of the Governing Body are periodically invited to attend Collective Worship and contribute towards evaluation. Pupils are audited to ascertain their views on the worship provided in school. They are given feedback and their thoughts and ideas are adopted where possible.

## **Invitations to attend Worship**

- Parents, friends and governors are invited to the Harvest, Christmas and Easter Services at St Ebba's Church or the school hall
- Parents are invited to Nativity Plays in the period before Christmas
- Year 6 Parents are invited to the Leavers Service at the end of the Summer Term
- Parents are invited to one Class Collective Worship a year
- Members of the community are invited to join us at St. Ebba's Church for our Community Worship once per half term.