

# Coulsdon C of E Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

The ethos of this school is to enable every child to learn and develop in a Christian environment. We ask all parents of whatever faith applying for a place here to recognise and support this ethos and its importance to the school.

*Together, growing in mind, body and spirit*

*Approved November 2024  
Next Review November 2026  
or sooner if required*

# **Coulsdon C of E Primary School**

Voluntary Aided Founded in 1834

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

*Growing together in mind, body and spirit*

*'Shout to the Lord, all the earth.*

*Worship the Lord with gladness;*

*come before him with joyful songs.*

*Know that the lord is God.*

*It is he who has made us and we are his' (Psalm 100)*

The daily act of collective worship is a legal requirement in all schools. In a Church School it should always be Christian worship and it should reflect the traditions of the Church of England. It should provide opportunity for everyone in the school to:

- sing, pray and give praise and thanksgiving to God;
- reflect on the attributes of God and on the teachings of Jesus Christ;
- listen to and learn from The Holy Bible;
- promote and affirm Christian values;
- celebrate special times in the Christian Calendar;
- share each other's joys and challenges;
- foster respect and unity;
- deepen spiritual awareness and reflection;

(from SDBE Policy Statement)

This policy is intended to ensure consistency across the school of the provision of Collective worship. Coulsdon Church of England Primary School is a Voluntary Aided Primary School, founded in 1834. It is a one form entry school providing a Christian based education for up to 210 boys and girls between the ages of 4+ to 11+ inclusive.

The school has a particular relationship with the community of Coulsdon through its association with the Church of St. John the Evangelist.

Collective worship at Coulsdon C of E Primary School is determined by the Governing Body, in accordance with the school's trust deed, and therefore, in the main, reflects the traditions of the Church of England.

The planning and organisation of collective worship is arranged by the Head Teacher, Rector and staff, after consultation with the Faith Group set up by the Governing Body.

### **Aims**

At the heart of Coulsdon C of E Primary School lies a serious commitment to worship which reflects Christian belief.

Our collective worship should have an effect upon the thinking and day-to-day actions of the whole school community outside of the act of Collective worship itself, impacting upon school life and on the daily lives of the members of the school community outside school, helping to establish, embed and give expression to the Christian values which form part of our school ethos.

The act of collective worship provides time each day for all members of our school community - children and adults - to pray to and worship God. It plays an important role in establishing our community as one based on the ministry and teaching of Jesus.

Collective worship provides an opportunity for all to contribute to and from which all can gain, no matter what their personal commitment.

It is expected that members of staff will regularly attend Collective Worship as a priority.

### **Agreed Practice**

Our aim is that all acts of collective worship should be inclusive, invitational and inspiring. Daily acts of collective worship at Coulsdon C.E. School should

- a. Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- b. Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals
- c. Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God and its language, and understand ideas of wonder, justice, and responsibility.
- d. Enable pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, should have access to regular training.
- e. Value the partnership with St John's Church in supporting the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

*(based on the SIAMS schedule: The Impact of collective worship)*

At least once a term, worship takes place in the church of St. John the Evangelist, particularly the services associated with the main Christian festivals of Harvest, Christmas, Easter. In addition, the end of the school year is always marked by celebrating the achievements of the pupils leaving the school and moving on to secondary school. Parents and friends are always invited to share in these celebrations.

### **Main themes for collective worship include**

- Events and seasons of the liturgical calendar
- Knowledge and understanding of the bible
  - the story of God's actions with his people
  - the life and teachings of Jesus
- Half-termly themes, such as those in 'Values for Life' programme, developed by the Dioceses of Gloucester, Bristol and Salisbury.

### **The weekly programme of collective worship:**

Three days a week: the whole school joins together as a worshipping community led by the Head Teacher, Deputy or Assistant Head Teacher, and Rector

Once a week: younger and older pupils have separate opportunities for worship which recognise their specific needs according to their Key Stage group.

Once a week: Achievement and effort is celebrated in the context of the theme for the half-term.

### **Enrichment Opportunities**

- Visits to places of worship including Southwark Cathedral
- Church services at St John's Church.
- Visitors and Christian groups
- Special theme days (e.g. Bible Day)

### **Resources**

Music, books, website links, Bibles, prayer books, artefacts.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Collective worship and church services are monitored and evaluated regularly in a variety of ways These include:

- Termly evaluation meetings as necessary (Faith Group, HT/DHT, Rector)
- Discussions with pupils
- Discussions with staff
- Visits and subsequent oral or written reports from school governors
- Feedback from parents/carers.

**Parents and Collective worship**

All children are included and are given equal access and opportunities to take part in Collective worship. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship on the grounds of conscience. However, we strongly encourage parents to contact the Head Teacher if they have concerns and/or anxieties about policy, provision and practice of collective worship at Coulsdon C of E Primary School.