

# Collective Worship Policy

How will our worship feed and nourish our spirit, faith or thinking?  
How will it support us to feed and nourish ourselves and those we meet?



## Capenhurst CE Primary School

***We are a nurturing, inclusive, learning community, that celebrates all possibilities, through a journey of curiosity, compassion and resilience, nourishing each other spiritually, emotionally, intellectually and physically with God as our companion.***

*We use the story of The Feeding of the Five Thousand (John 6:1-14) as our shared story that exemplifies our vision and roots it in theology that is accessible and known by our school community.*

### **Collective Worship and the Law**

*Collective worship in community schools is grounded in the historical past and enshrined in educational law to be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. In Church schools the requirement instead to reflect the Anglican status of the school as expressed in its trust deed liberates those leading collective worship to build on the rich, lived diversity of Anglican tradition and identity. In the same way as worship in churches is aspirational, constantly evolving and being re-imagined there is an expectation of a continuous, dynamic reimagining of what collective worship means in the Church school. Taken from 'Inclusive Invitational Inspiring' guidance from the Church of England Education Office.*

At Capenhurst CE Primary we seek to provide such an act of worship each day, in differing forms and with differing groupings. It is the responsibility of the Head and the Governing Body of the school to ensure a daily act of worship takes place. At Capenhurst C.E. Primary the responsibility to co-ordinate the acts of worship is delegated to the headteacher

### **Aims and objectives**

At Capenhurst C.E. Primary School our acts of worship seek to spiritually nourish all members of the school community and encourage attendees to appreciate a power beyond themselves; namely God. We will reflect on two questions when planning, delivering and reflecting on our worship:

- How has today's worship fed and nourished your spirit, faith or thinking?
- What can I do today to feed and nourish myself and those I meet?

As a church school, we seek to encourage the children to appreciate the beliefs of Christianity, whilst promoting and developing a positive attitude and response to other faiths.

The aspiration to provide collective worship that is *Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring* is underpinned by the following aims and objectives:

- Create moments of awe, wonder, respect and reverence within worship.
- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on values such as *thankfulness, celebration, faith, forgiveness, community service and respect*; and develop virtues such as *curiosity, resilience and compassion* that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.
- Nurture a concern for the wider world, promote a positive attitude to issues locally, nationally and globally whilst celebrating each unique individual member of the school community.

### **Inclusive, Invitational, and Inspiring**

## **Inclusive**

Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. At Capenhurst pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. There are pupils and staff in our school who come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, pupils may be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. We believe that pupils should be given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There should be space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. Those leading worship at Capenhurst will take care to ensure that the language used during worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching.

Collective worship at Capenhurst is not 'done to' but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. It is recognised that pupils will bring their own experience to worship. Inclusion means that there will be pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship. Collective worship will grow out of our local context and out of our pupils' experience and cultural backgrounds.

## **Invitational**

Parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship at Capenhurst that is consistently invitational. There will be no compulsion to 'do anything'. Worship will provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Importantly the door to worship is open, all are welcome to come in and participate in a way they find comfortable.

Pupils and adults will only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and to pray in their own way. Prayer should always be accompanied by the option to reflect.

Music and liturgies used in worship at Capenhurst reflect the best of traditional and modern Anglican worship, connecting with the theme and used to reflect the diverse worship experience of the wider Christian community. Care will be taken to reflect the spiritual life of our community.

## **Inspiring**

Worship at Capenhurst will aim to be inspirational, formational and transformational: enabling all present to feel nourished spiritually and emotionally. It will enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It will motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of collective worship, staff and pupils will be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes; encourage all to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

There will always be those who are uncomfortable to enter through this open door of worship in our school and so Capenhurst recognises the right of withdrawal from collective worship for those parents or pupils who wish to exercise this option. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents. Children who are withdrawn from collective worship for any reason are supervised by a member of staff. These children will read or engage in a quiet activity.

## **Provision**

The rhythm of daily worship allows pupils and adults to step away from the target-driven culture of much of education, creating a space for an encounter with faith in God. It also provides the opportunity to reflect on larger questions of meaning and purpose. Pupils and adults at Capenhurst can expect that our school's collective worship practices will provide a shared set of symbols, signs, words and actions which give the community a language upon which it can draw, in times of joy and grief.

Such an experience is key to fostering a sense of companionship, fellowship and cohesion within the school community. Whether in times of crisis or celebration, this time set aside in the school day provides staff and pupils with the opportunity to gather and support one another as a community. Pupils and adults will encounter the practice of prayer and worship as a normal part of school life.

The content of the worship is to be devised by the person leading it to reflect the age and understanding of the children involved; and to ensure that they are all engaged. It will be designed to reflect the value or concept that is the focus of that half term or a specific Christian festival. It will be something that pupils and adults may want to share and discuss with others in school, in the community and at home.

Weekly worship:

Monday	11:45 – 12:00pm Whole school worship on TEAMS led by Claire or children
Tuesday	Key Stage or Class worship at a time to suit, led by class teachers.
Wednesday	Key Stage or Class worship at a time to suit, led by class teachers.
Thursday	1.10pm Whole school worship in church led by Claire, parish vicar (if available) or children (church t.b.c. each week depending on weather)
Friday	2:30 – 3:00pm Celebration Worship in Village Hall led by Claire (parents invited)

Joint worship with other small church schools will take place each term to extend the Christian family of worship.

School will also take part in additional acts of worship during the year reflecting significant festivals in the Christian calendar such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter. There will be a leavers’ service for Year 6 pupils at the end of their final year at school.

**The structure of our worship – to nourish and feed everyone spiritually**

Opening

Value reference

Discussion and/or Bible story – with actions or activity where possible

Song – choose a range of traditional, modern and varied worship songs

Reflection – how has today’s worship fed and nourished your spirit, faith or thinking? It may include reference to Bible quote for school. What can I do today to feed and nourish myself and those I meet?

Prayer

Recap the value

Closing

**Planning your worship – reflecting on worship FEEDing and nourishing remember to ask...**

What is the **Form** of today’s worship?

How have I included chances for **Expression** (action and activity) in today’s worship?

How will I lead with **Excellence** and integrity?

Does my worship reflect the **Diversity** of school or the wider world?

The use of liturgical colours to reflect the liturgical season should be used as a focal point along with the candle to be lit during reflection and prayer. The list below outlines the liturgical colours and seasons.

**Purple** – Advent and from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday

**White or Gold** - Christmas Day to Candlemas, Easter Day to the Eve of Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, All Saints' Day, feast days of saints who are not martyrs, Feast of Dedication of a church

**Red** - Holy Week (although coloured hangings are traditionally removed for Good Friday and Easter Eve), Feast of Pentecost, between All Saints' Day and the First Sunday of Advent, feast days of martyrs

**Green** - Day after Candlemas to Shrove Tuesday, day after Pentecost to the eve of All Saints' Day

It should be noted that we do not see an assembly as an act of worship but a gathering of the school for other purposes e.g. notices, achievement book, behaviour, chats etc.

### **Developing staff expertise and knowledge**

Parents, pupils and adults are entitled to be led in worship by those who have a secure understanding of the nature of collective worship in a Church school context and by those who are professional in their approach to working with pupils and adults from all faiths and none. Therefore, there will be opportunities to build up this expertise in staff, pupils, clergy and other adults.

Worship leaders, including clergy, should have access to regular training, primarily through local diocesan education teams. Pupil worship leaders should be supported, encouraged and resourced to contribute meaningful acts of worship. There will be access to quality resources for those leading worship.

### **Visitors**

Visitors to Capenhurst are used to enrich collective worship; bring a different perspective to it; represent a faith, sharing it with those who belong to the same tradition, with those from a different one and demonstrating it to those that have no religious faith; represent an aspect of the school's wider community as a parent, governor or worshipper at the local church. Liaison before and after the visit between school and the visiting leader will ensure that the visit goes smoothly.

### **Record Keeping, Review and Evaluation**

A worship plan is shared with all staff each half term which identifies ideas for worship and reflection activities as well as a bible reference linked to the vale for that half term. Worship plans are shared with the wider community on the school website ([Capenhurst C E Primary School: Curriculum 2023/2024](#))

The programme is reviewed and evaluated by all staff. Adjustments are made as necessary. As part of the evaluation process, children and staff will engage in reflection activities as per the plan and staff will collate comments as appropriate. Children will also be asked about worship during learning walks and book scrutiny as appropriate.