



St Nicolas C of E Academy

Together We Flourish

*Collective Worship
Policy*

Written: Summer 2023



St Nicolas CofE Collective Worship Policy

Vision and Values

Our vision as a Church of England primary school, deeply rooted in a strong Christian tradition, is to develop happy, young people with enquiring minds, a spirit of curiosity, respect for themselves, others and the environment so that they will have the skills, resilience and adaptability to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Our vision draws inspiration from the Parable of the Sower which is found in the gospel of Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 in the New Testament.

A farmer sows seed in a field:

- Some seed falls on the paths, and the birds quickly eat it.
- Some seed falls where there are rocks, and not much soil. Plants grow quickly, but soon the sun dries them. There is not enough soil, and the plants die.
- Some seed begins to grow in a place where there are too many weeds. The weeds stop the growth of the plants, and the plants die.
- But some seeds fall on rich soil. So, the plants flourish.

We strive to provide the rich soil that enables our children and adults to develop the deep roots that they need to flourish in the love and grace of God. Within our community, our Christian school nurtures growth and supports all to have the courage to face challenge and the resilience to persevere even when confronted by difficulties. We endeavour to provide abundant opportunities which provide a platform for unique strengths and talents to blossom, where everyone feels valued and has respect for themselves and others, and hope for the brightest future.

Our mission, as a school with a religious character, is to provide an education of depth and quality in a Christian ethos which ensures the children and adults have the nurturing and aspirational environment to reach their full potential.

To realise our mission, we endeavour to live out our vision through our school motto:

Together We Flourish

Christian Values are interwoven through our vision, mission and motto and are embedded throughout the curriculum with a particular focus given to:

- Love (Compassion and Friendship)
- Peace
- Thankfulness
- Perseverance
- Service
- Hope

Our one school rule of respect ensures everyone feels valued and is the lens through which all our values are viewed.

Equalities Statement

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Introduction

At St Nicolas CofE Academy Collective Worship forms an integral part of everyday school life. It provides children with the opportunity to reflect on their own lives and the lives of others, explore the Christian faith in greater depth and develop a well-rounded understanding of the world in which we live.

In accordance with the law for all schools and academies, at St Nicolas, we hold a daily act of collective worship which is of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the diverse traditions of Christian belief and marking the cycle of the church's year. We strive to ensure that our acts of worship are inspirational, invitational and inclusive for all members of our school community.

Aims

Collective Worship is at the heart of St Nicolas. It happens on a daily basis, in many different forms and contributes significantly to the ethos and values adopted by the school. For the whole school, the aims are to:

- Share and celebrate school values.
- Explore together the world in which we live.
- Explore the Christian faith in greater depth.
- Develop a community spirit.
- Celebrate achievement both within and outside of school.

Collective Worship that is personalised and worthy also contributes greatly to the development of both the pupils' and adults' SMSC development by providing opportunities to:

- Worship.
- Consider spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues.
- Explore their own beliefs and the beliefs of others.
- Develop their own spirituality.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.
- Participate in whole school and group discussions.
- Reflect on their role in the wider world.
- Develop a broader understanding of British Values.

The Collective Worship for Church of England Schools document compiled by the Diocese of Coventry suggests that collective worship should be inclusive, invitational and inspiring. The 'Recipe for Good Collective Worship' outlined in this document is one which we have utilised as a guide for our provision of Collective Worship at St Nicolas. We aim for our Collective Worship to:

- Be Collective and not corporate in nature.
- Embrace prayer of different kinds.
- Embrace times of stillness and reflection as well as lively action.
- Offer opportunities to worship in different ways, using song, action, dance and creative use of props.
- Incorporate use of story and story-telling.
- Have links to Anglican Liturgy, the seasons and key festivals.
- Offer opportunity for Eucharist in creative and inclusive ways (where appropriate).
- Include encounters with the teaching of Jesus.
- Offer an encounter with the doctrine of Trinity and support understanding.
- Allow pupils to plan, deliver and evaluate collective worship.
- Incorporate working with the local Church community through planned partnership of delivery.

Organisation

The daily act of Collective Worship is accessible for all students in a number of different contexts. Whole school Collective Worship, Key Stage and class Collective Worship take place on a weekly basis. Depending on this, the location of the Collective Worship varies from the hall, to classrooms, to church.

Each week, Collective Worship is planned and led by different members of staff, whole classes, small groups of children as well as members of the local clergy. All children are encouraged to actively participate. They are encouraged to ask questions, challenge ideas and reflect on their own spiritual development. We utilise the Year 6 pupil worship leaders to lead and support in this collective worship also.

Music plays an important role in acts of Collective Worship. Hymns are sung and a wide variety of music is played to signify the beginning of the worship and during transition back into the school day.

Both our school motto and Christian values feature heavily in acts of Collective Worship and link closely to many of the Collective Worship themes and Big Questions. All acts of worship include a prayer and time for quiet reflection. Afterwards, children are encouraged to reflect and act upon issues which have been raised during the act of Collective Worship.

Inclusion

At St Nicolas, all children are encouraged to take part in daily Collective Worship irrespective of their race, gender, disability, age and faith. In situations where this might not be appropriate, we recognise that parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship and, in these cases, circumstances should be discussed with the headteacher so that an agreement can be made.

Role of the Clergy

Staff and children take part in regular church services throughout the academic year to coincide with both the Christian and school's academic calendar. These services involve the whole school community, parents, members of the local community and are led by our school's vicar. These can be in school or at times at St Nicolas Church.

In addition, members of the Parish Church of St Nicolas congregation are also welcomed in school to support with RE provision and Eucharist services. They adopt a pastoral role for both children and staff.

Community Links

Members of the local community are invited into school to assist and enrich children's education in Collective Worship. Visitors are often invited in to deliver assemblies during special events and often stay after acts of Collective Worship to spend additional time with the children. As well as this, members of the local community are welcomed at our church services.

Evaluation, Review and Revision

This policy was written in Summer 2023. It will be reviewed in three years' time or before, if it is felt appropriate. It was drawn up in consultation with, and reflects the consensus of opinion of, the Headteacher, members of the teaching staff and members of the Governing Body.