

# Collective Worship Policy for Shaftesbury School

## Rationale

The School Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school's ethos of Educating for 'Aspiration, Action, Achievement' and is underpinned by the Christian values as expressed in Galatians as the Fruit of the Spirit. At Shaftesbury school we consider Collective worship to be an opportunity for the development of personal faith and spirituality as well as a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the school's distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of all learners.

Therefore Collective Worship at Shaftesbury School is planned to:

- be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all members of the community and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school and beyond
- regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the school's core Christian values
- have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all members of the community to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- help all members of the community to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- challenge all members of the community of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer and Reflection
- contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- be an opportunity to Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

Collective worship should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

## Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and foundation. The School meets this requirement through collective worship and tutor reflection time.

## Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school information. It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents or teachers, contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school information.

## **Appendices**

### **1. Planning a Collective Worship programme**

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4 stage structure of planning including 'Gathering' 'Engaging' 'Responding' 'Sending' and this is mirrored in the Theme for the Week resources for tutors. Training is provided and support is available if needed

### **2. Monitoring and Evaluation**

Worship is regularly monitored and evaluated by a range of stakeholders. Leaders review worship as part of the daily support of the school, the views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the School Council and parents are invited to attend events and give feedback. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning, leading and monitoring of Collective Worship. One of the school's governors has a role monitoring Collective Worship and this is fed back to the local governing body as part of the item 'ethos'.

### **4. Our pattern of Collective Worship**

**Year/House Assemblies take place daily.** These are taken by a range of staff and visitors including members of our clergy team. The acts of worship generally follow themes that are aligned to the school's values but include recognition of the Church's year and make space for other national events. These are planned annually and appear in the Worship rota. The content of these acts of worship would be varied but still include a significant Christian input.

#### **Tutor-led Reflections**

Each week pupils reflect on statements, thoughts or ideas, provided for teachers. Pupils may also contribute ideas for reflection. Pupils are invited to take part in the prayer or reflect on its meaning. A daily act of reflection takes place in a minute's silence every day.

#### **Visitors**

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher. There is a visiting speaker policy for the Trust.

#### **Guidance for Staff**

**Staff are invited to take part in all activities. If they wish not to, they are invited to respectfully not engage with worship but remain in supervision of students.**