Longhoughton CE Primary School
Everyone is Welcome

Collective Worship Policy

This policy is awaiting ratification by the Academy Committee

Our Christian Vision

God has given each of us a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts; use them well to serve each other. 1 Peter 4:10

We all have something special about us that needs to be recognised, nurtured and valued. We all have our own challenges too. By coming together, we create a richly diverse community in which we can all succeed. Together, *'We are God's masterpiece' – Ephesians 2:10.*

Our school values underpin all we do:

Creativity

We think differently when we need to.

Compassion

We look out for each other – we are kind and understanding.

Courage

We try new things. We take risks and challenge ourselves. We are courageous advocates for change in our world. We are brave when it is the right thing to do.

Respect

We are all different, therefore nobody is different. We respect each other and ourselves. We treat others how we expect to be treated ourselves.

Community

Our school is the beating heart of a vibrant, special community. We are local, national and global neighbours.

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Aims and Purpose of Collective Worship

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship at Longhooughton CE Primary School are:

- To provide the opportunity and inspiration for children and adults to grow spiritually

- To enable children and adults to consider our Christian Vision and Values, exploring their understanding of these in depth
- To enable children and adults to develop and explore their own beliefs
- To provide an opportunity for children and adults to worship God
- To foster a strong sense of community within our school built on our vision and core values
- To enable children and adults to explore their place and significance within our school, local, national and global communities
- To help children and adults to develop respect, sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others
- To enable children and adults to consider spiritual, moral and cultural issues
- To promote respect and understanding for those with differing beliefs and backgrounds – to celebrate the diversity of our modern society

Collective Worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion with the purpose of showing reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of our school community coming together and participating in worship.

In line with the 1998 School Framework and Standards Act, we hold Collective Worship daily and broadly based on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. We are sensitive and welcoming of all religious beliefs and backgrounds and design our approach to Collective Worship to support the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold Collective Worship every day for all of our school staff and children to come together. This is led by either the Headteacher, other school staff or local clergy. A typical week would look like this:

Monday: led by the Headteacher

Tuesday: led by the local vicar or the padre from RAF Boulmer

Wednesday: led by a member of staff, often supported by the pupils in their class

Thursday: singing worship

Friday: Wall of Fame celebration worship where we welcome parents and families to join us as we celebrate achievements of the week.

We visit the village church for worship at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and at the end of the school year.

Once a month, Open the Book lead worship, bringing to life and helping us to explore stories from the Bible.

Occasionally, a Class Worship may be held if it is not possible on a particular day to gather the whole school community together.

Content, Structure and Approach to Collective Worship

Collective Worship in school is closely linked to our school vision and values. Each term there is a focus on one particular value, encouraging children and adults to deepen their understanding of it:

Autumn 1: Creativity

Autumn 2: Compassion

Spring 1: Courage

Spring 2: Respect

Summer 1: Community

Summer 2: revisiting all our values

We also link our worship to key times in the Christian calendar, as well as important festivals and times of year from other major world faiths. We may respond to topical themes and world events too. Teachings from the Bible often form the basis of our worship.

Collective Worship is always designed around the following key elements:

It is **inclusive**: all children and adults are welcomed and included in every worship. We understand our ever-changing school community and design worship to support individual contexts within our cohort. We respect and value that personal beliefs are different and all are welcome.

It is **invitational**: nothing is compulsory; children and adults are welcomed to engage with worship at the level that is most appropriate for them. For example, they can choose whether to join in when we pray.

It is **inspirational**: we design collective worship to promote deeper thought, spiritual growth and a desire to develop and act further in response to learning covered.

We structure collective Worship broadly in line with the four-stage liturgical structure:

We **gather** our school community together.

We **engage** together in deeper thinking, spiritual learning and bigger questions.

We **respond** to and reflect on themes and learning presented.

We **send** children and adults out into the community with a moral purpose.

Right of withdrawal

We invite and expect all children and adults to attend worship. However, in line with Section 71 of the 1998 School Standards and Framework Act, any parent can request permission for their child to be withdrawn from all or part of Collective Worship without needing to give a reason. In this case, school would make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child. If a parent was considering making such a request, we would always invite the parent in to share and discuss their concerns, and consider making any adaptations to support the particular needs of their child.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years.

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To be ratified by Academy Committee Sub-Committee 1