



Euxton CE Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

*'In our Christian family we all SHINE in the light of Jesus'*

In accordance with our Vision Statement, our school team prepares children for their future by helping them achieve their full potential in the school setting, as part of the Christian family and as members of the wider community.

We work successfully to:

- ◆ create an environment that is stimulating, welcoming and purposeful for all members of the school community.
- ◆ promote a Christian ethos
- ◆ enhance children's quality of learning through the delivery of a broad, balanced, relevant and creative curriculum, where each child is challenged to achieve their full potential
- ◆ provide a range of educational and social experiences, free from discrimination, appropriate to the age, ability and needs of our pupils
- ◆ encourage children to be tolerant, caring and respectful towards others, their community and the world around them
- ◆ value and celebrate the contribution stakeholders make to further improving standards in all areas of school life.
- ◆ promote, encourage and sustain the physical and emotional health and well-being of all members of the school community

As a school family we believe worship to be a special act or occasion with the purpose of connecting with God. Our staff, children and families value the special dimension worship brings to church school life. Collective worship includes all members of the school community coming together to participate actively in a daily act of worship. Our worship is based around Christian values; teaching of Christ and the traditions of the Church of England.

### Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity to worship God;
- to allow worshippers opportunities to express their affection to God, focusing their attention on God, and use their abilities for God;
- to consider spiritual, moral and philosophical issues;
- to explore and enrich their own faith and beliefs;
- to develop a feeling of Christian fellowship and a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared Christian values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to encourage pupils think about how Christianity has shaped British culture and heritage and influenced the lives of many people;
- to further strengthen links with the worship of Euxton Parish Church;
- to teach children how to worship;
- to encourage participation and response.

### Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This is either a whole-school assembly (4 times a week) or a class based act of worship.(once a week). These times together are seen as a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully and participate. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and lighting candles or using other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. A range of media is used to enhance worship including video clips and pictures. Children use talking partners to reflect on their understanding. Prayer life is central to worship.

Over the year worship is led by various groups including, the Headteacher, Assistant Headteachers, members of staff, pupils, ethos group, local clergy and other leaders of Christian traditions. Worship is based around our core values, Christian traditions and also all books from the old and new testament. The worship is underpinned by sound theological teaching and has a strong Focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is intended to be stimulating and engaging and imaginative use is made of a variety of settings. We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We also place a strong emphasis on our Christian Values, thanksgiving; trust; forgiveness; compassion; truth, hope & perseverance. These values underpin everything we do at Euxton Church of England Primary School.

Our Friday celebration assembly offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements and successes both in and out of school. This assembly plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Each week our 'superstar award' is presented to a child who has displayed our core values. Newsletters show themes for worship and encourage families to reflect on this work.

We invite parents to join our worship on a regular basis, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children. Ethos group lead assemblies regularly, all children are encouraged to take in our worships. We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

#### Right of withdrawal

Having chosen to be educated at a Church of England Aided Primary school, we would expect all children to attend worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. No child currently is withdrawn from any worship across the school.