



# Storth CE Primary School Collective Worship Policy

## Philosophy

Storth C of E School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it allows us to come together as a school community to celebrate our status as uniquely-created and loved children of God. It is attended by all students; staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in. It is planned to reflect themes from our school's Values Statement.

## School Values Statement

We at Storth CE Primary School seek to help children achieve their potential by encouraging a love of learning through personalised teaching. Acceptance of all, self-belief and resilience are developed through our enriched and stimulating curriculum in a happy and caring environment. As a Church of England school, we aim to develop Christian values in a gently spiritual manner that allows children to ask questions and explore issues of faith with confidence.

## Collective Worship and the Law

Church schools in the diocese must fulfil two legal requirements for Collective Worship:-

- The legal requirement for Church schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.
- Collective worship in Church schools must be in accordance with the school's trust deed.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place throughout the year.

Parents should be made aware that the school is a Church school and as such Collective Worship will be based upon the foundations and principles of the Church of England. This is best done through the school website. The governing body is aware of their legal responsibilities and are clear about their statutory responsibility to uphold the Christian

foundation of the school. This responsibility to uphold the Christian ethos and foundation of the school is also clear to staff on their appointment.

## **Aims of Collective Worship**

It is our aim at Storth C of E School that worship should:

- reflect the Ethos Statement and Values Statement of the school
- be clearly planned
- be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils
- offer opportunities to worship God
- be inclusive and an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected
- offer opportunities for pupils to plan and lead collective worship
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church
- be regularly monitored and evaluated
- underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community
- be an opportunity for pupils to reflect on human existence
- help children explore and develop their own spirituality
- enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- offer opportunities to share worship with parents, governors and members of the local community
- celebrate special occasions in the Church's year and the life of the community
- show appreciation for the God given gifts and talents of the school community.

## **Responsibility for Collective Worship**

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met. At Storth C of E School the Collective Worship co-ordinator takes on the responsibility for organising and planning the worship. In this he or she will set the themes for the year, organise a range of activities, engage with the local churches and their incumbents, ensure that they follow the ethos and values of Storth CE School and offer times for teaching, reflection, response, participation and prayer.

## **The Timing of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship takes place every day Monday to Friday; at a time when the whole school can meet together for prayer and reflection. It is usually held in the school.

## **The planning and monitoring of Collective Worship**

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship is varied and there is evidence of this in planning.

Each term there is a theme for collective worship based on the School's Christian Values. These are published at the beginning of the year. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week.

This pattern is flexible, and on occasions, it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

The school's Foundation Governors have a role in monitoring Collective worship at the school.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. The school council regularly seeks the views of their classmates and reports these findings to the school council.

## **Rights of Withdrawal**

At Storth C of E School, we seek to be an inclusive community; however, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers in VC Schools, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish to exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Storth C of E School.

## **Context of Collective worship**

In order to promote children's learning, our acts of worship vary. Our pattern for an Academic Year is set out below:

Monday - Whole school – Led by Mr Brabant

Tuesday – Whole School – Led by Mrs Buchanan

Wednesday – Whole School– Led by Father Andrew or Rev Hannah

Thursday - Whole School - Led by Mr Brabant or Open the Book

Friday – Whole School - Celebration Assembly

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship. We record our acts of worship to inform our learning and plan for further developments.

## **Conclusion**

Collective Worship plays a very important role in our school as we seek to develop our children in the skills of reflection and empathy, to encourage and celebrate their talents and to promote their spiritual and moral development.

Date: April 2026

Date of Review: April 2028