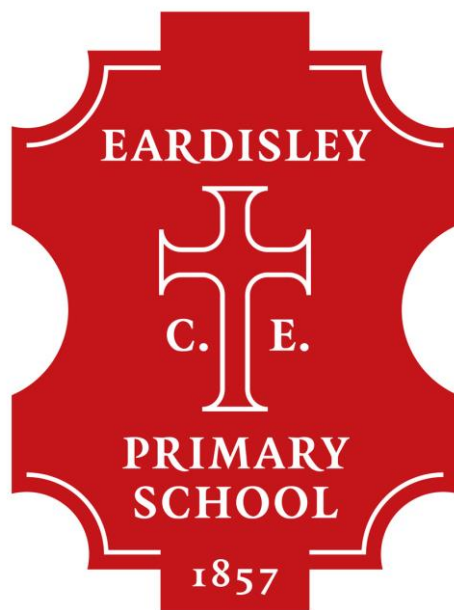


# **Eardisley Church of England Primary School**



## **Collective Worship Policy**

**October 2023**

## **Introduction**

*“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”.*

William Temple (1881-1894)

## **Philosophy**

In common with the Church of England, Collective Worship at our school is also invitational. We follow a principle of 'warm fires and open doors'. We hope that all will be drawn by collective worship, and engage at in a way they feel comfortable with.

### **The Value of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is predominately educational and makes a major contribution to pupils' personal development. Collective worship can particularly enable spiritual development as it provides pupils with the opportunity to express thankfulness and joy, to quietly reflect upon the big questions of life and their own thoughts and beliefs, and engage in an act of community. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to take part in spiritual contemplation, reflection and prayer. All the children attend, and staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in. Through their involvement in planning, evaluation and delivery of worship, pupils' understanding of spiritual and moral issues can be extended and enriched.

### **Collective Worship and the Law**

As a church school we fulfil the 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.
- “The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.”

*The School Standards and Framework Act 1998*

All acts of worship at Eardisley CE Primary School are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school.

## **Aims of Collective Worship**

Pupils, teachers and families value the special dimension collective worship brings to church school life. It aims to give pupils and school staff alike the opportunity to:

- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and experience the tranquillity of God.
- Reflect on human existence through exploring the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes and the ethos of the school
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar, reflecting some of the practices and traditions of the local church

## **The Planning of Collective Worship**

Collective worship is treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. Each month there is a theme for Collective Worship based on the Christian Values chosen by the School Council. 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 has developed its own planning format for Collective Worship, thus ensuring continuity, progression and deepening, and reflecting the value placed on this activity as part of daily school life.

We are also making use of the Diocesan Worship led by Mark Harrington for class assemblies.

## **Delivery of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is underpinned by the school's Christian ethos and Christian values.

Collective Worship is given a special period in the school day:

Monday 10.20-10.40 – Whole School Collective Worship led by Mrs Knight Tuesday 10.20-10.40 – Whole School Collective Worship led by Rector Marcus Small.
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Wednesday 10.20-10.40 – Whole School Collective Singing Worship led by Mr Salter
Thursday 10.20-10.40 – Class Collective Worship (with termly House worship)
Friday 10.20-10.40 – Whole School Celebration Worship

- Worship takes place in a variety of settings; for example - In the school hall, in a class, outside, in the local church. It is led by the headteacher, class teachers, the children, our local rector and, on occasions, outside speakers. The school attends Eardisley Church to celebrate significant times of the liturgical year.
- The pattern of worship reflects the broad spectrum of the Anglican tradition and Christian heritage. It allows the pupils to encounter some of the wide range of art, music and artefacts within the Christian tradition and offers opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social, cultural and personal development.
- Worship provides pupils with an opportunity to worship God in an environment conducive to worship. It offers pupils opportunities to encounter the more challenging experiences of life and death and provide opportunities for the pupils to share and reflect upon things that are significant and meaningful to them.
- Each act of worship gives significant time for meaningful, silent reflection and an exploration of inner space. The pupils say how much they enjoy this and value these opportunities.
- Reflection time is echoed in classes at various points in the school day, with opportunities built in to use our lovely outdoor area where possible. Each class observes a quiet time with a candle and prayers, giving further opportunities for pupils to develop their individual spirituality and enable collective worship.
- Children who need extra support with reflection for any reason, including bereavement, receive this sensitively.
- The school hall has a 'sacred table' set aside with a cloth and a candle as a vehicle for prayer and reflection, and a prayer tree that holds the children's own written prayers. These are changed regularly and are read by the children at the close of worship.
- Children are encouraged to participate in and to lead Collective Worship on a regular basis. They relish these opportunities and rise to their challenges!
- Worship at Eardisley CE Primary School is an uplifting and positive experience, celebrating all that is good and expressing thankfulness to and joy in God.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship**

The Ethos Committee, comprising our Foundation and other Governors has a role monitoring Collective worship at the school to ensure that worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality. Governors and staff review plans, attend acts of worship and discuss pupils' own views. We encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process.

## **Rights of Withdrawal**

Eardisley CE Primary School is an inclusive community; however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher co-ordinator 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 maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Eardisley CE Primary School.