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Review Date: Spr 2021

St. Giles' Church of England Primary School (VA)

'Learn, Grow and Flourish'

Collective Worship policy

Christian Ethos

As a Church of England School, all of our policies take into consideration and reflect the Christian ethos of our school.

From the Instrument of Government

Recognising its historic foundation, St. Giles' VA School will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

Aim

The aim of Collective Worship at St. Giles' School is to introduce pupils to worship in a manner appropriate to their age, aptitude and family background and drawing upon the riches of the Anglican and other Christian traditions.

It is not the purpose of Collective Worship in church schools actively to evangelise. There is, inevitably, an aspect of any act of worship that encourages those participating to feel part of the Christian faith community. This is done, however, by including those present - not by using Collective Worship to campaign for some kind of "commitment" which is inappropriate in a school setting. Collective Worship is collective not corporate. In other words, it is something we do together but embracing a great variety of faith commitment.

Collective Worship should:

- 1) be daily for all children
- 2) be monitored by the staff
- 3) be enjoyable
- 4) be suitable for all abilities
- 5) be age appropriate
- 6) be appropriate to the background of the children
- 7) involve the community but still be controlled by the school
- 8) allow time for reflection

The Content of Collective Worship

- Collective Worship will be Christian. Other religions will be treated with respect but will not provide the basis of worship.
- Collective Worship will take place each day, although the actual time may vary as circumstances require.
- Collective Worship can involve the whole school together, in KS's or individual classes can hold their own acts of worship. Children will not be passive but encouraged to be active by participating in appropriate ways.
- Themes for worship will be chosen reflecting a wide variety of approaches. They may be seasonal or follow themes related to the church year, or continuing story. In order to embed Christian values within our school we follow a monthly values calendar where we focus on a Christian value each month which runs on a two year rolling programme.
- When appropriate, Collective Worship will engage with any event, local, national or world, of which the children may be aware, and offer appropriate worship in response. There is room for spontaneity.
- While most acts of Collective Worship will be held in the school building, an Act of Worship will be held in St. Giles', South Mymms fortnightly.
- The incumbent will be encouraged to lead Collective Worship on a regular basis, ideally every two weeks.
- Ministers from other Christian denominations will be encouraged to take Collective Worship. From time to time, it may be appropriate for visitors representing charities, organisations or projects to lead, or contribute to Collective Worship.
- Collective Worship is non-curriculum time and should connect with, and reinforce, the curriculum but not be constrained by it.

The Style of Collective Worship

- Collective Worship is an opportunity for children to explore the spiritual dimension of their world.
- Collective Worship will include stillness as well as words, stories, pictures and symbols, prayers and hymns, songs and music. There will be room for questions and answers - and sometimes the admission that there are no answers.
- There will be expressions of thankfulness, praise and joy. Feelings of sadness and loss will be included when appropriate.
- There will be time for individual prayer and reflection.

- Collective Worship should allow ethical and moral questions to be explored but never be a time simply for corporate discipline.
- Collective Worship allows opportunities for corporate information sharing. Care will be taken to differentiate between worship and notices.

Every act of Collective Worship should have a clear beginning, shape and ending.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation

A record of Worship is kept and staff review Collective Worship once a term. The Governing Body will receive a report termly and the Collective Worship policy will be reviewed regularly by the Governing Body every two years.