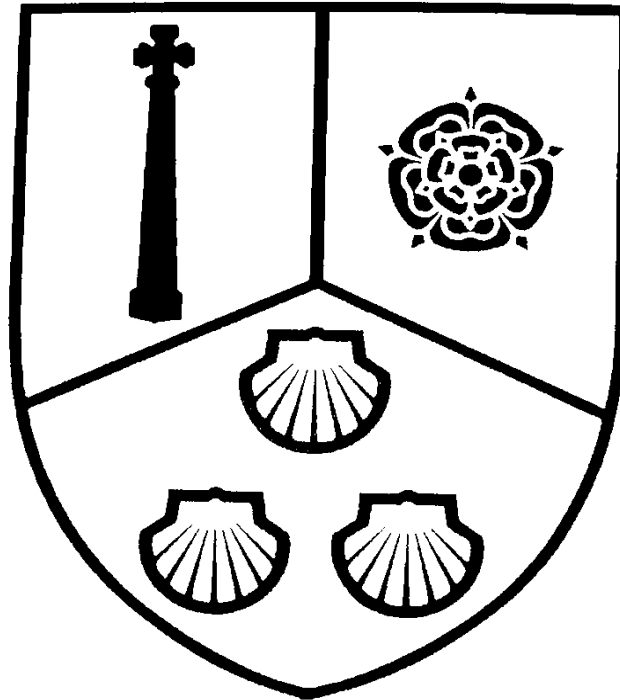


## LEYLAND ST JAMES' CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Leyland St. James' CE (Aided) Primary School – a Christian family where all are valued, children achieve and the future begins.

Our mission is to serve the community through serving our children. Every child is welcomed regardless of need, for 'who so ever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me' (Matthew 18.5). Everyone is valued; everyone has worth. We ensure that every child develops within God's love.

### **Policy for Collective Worship**

## 1. Fundamentals

### (a) Christian emphasis

In this Church of England Voluntary Aided School, Collective worship is in conformity with the ethos statement and the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed.

The school's ethos statement and distinctly Christian vision is:

***A Christian Family where all are valued, children achieve and the future begins***

*Our mission is to serve the community through serving our children. Every child is welcomed regardless of need for 'who so ever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me' (Matthew 18.5). Everyone is valued; everyone has worth. We ensure that every child develops within God's love.*

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England / Methodist Church and in partnership with the Church with the Church at parish / circuit and diocesan / district 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.

The school's Trust Deed states:

*The school should be and continue to be in union with the National Society for Promoting Religious Education and conducted according to its principles and in furtherance of its ends and designs.*

The daily act of collective worship required by law in the School shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England and the basic curriculum required by law in the school shall include religious education consistent with the faith of the Church of England. Use should be made, within the provisions of the Education acts for the time being in force, of the Parish Church or other Church of England place of worship, both for occasional acts of collective worship and for religious education.

(b) Collective Worship contributes to the working out of our Ethos Statement through our Christian vision and the aims and ethos of the school, and therefore to the Christian Education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school.

(c) Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use

prayer and spiritual reflection in the curriculum including at the end of the afternoon as well as graces before lunch.

- (d) The Church of England/Methodist Heritage- Forms of worship within our denomination(s) differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship whilst remaining true to our Trust Deeds. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church.

Whatever the approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These would include:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- The central values of respect, forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion, charity and courageous advocacy;
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- The importance of prayer;
- The central symbols of Christianity;
- The cycle of the Church year.

(f) The links with local Churches – the school has very close links with St. James' parish church. This includes the priest leading a weekly service in school, weekly class visits to the church and half termly services.

(g) Collective Worship and assembly.

The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply.

(h) Worship in the school - while reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development of pupils.

(i) The relationship to the Diocesan policy on worship in Church schools - The provision of collective worship conforms to Diocesan policy

(j) The relationship to Denominational Religious Education. - some elements of the syllabus are delivered via school worship.

## **2. Responsibility for the policy**

(a) Presented to Church Distinctiveness committee in Summer 2019.

(b) The head teacher is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

### **3. Statement of broad aims**

- To reaffirm and promote the distinctly Christian vision of the school.
- To create a worshipful atmosphere, which gives all present the opportunity to be welcomed to, engaged in and encouraged by the Christian teaching and spirituality involved.
- To reflect and celebrate the religious festivals and events of the church's year.

### **4. Organisation and Delivery**

"Though worship is not designated as curriculum time under current DfES regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school. Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of the National Curriculum and Religious Education and frequently involves teaching and learning activities such as discussion and question and answer. Pupils may be read to or instructed or they may be asked to listen to readings or to think about and respond to a stimulus such as a work of art. Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt. Frequently pupils are involved in leading worship or performing through dance, drama or music. When any such activities occur, they may be counted as teaching time even though they take place within worship. It is appropriate that, in a Church school, worship and learning is seen as a seamless whole even though, for the purposes of recording teaching time, we distinguish between the two."

Every child will have access to a daily form of Collective Worship of around 25 minutes:

- Monday – Head teacher whole school worship (10 AM, hall)
- Tuesday – Priestly whole school worship (10 AM, hall)
- Wednesday – Teacher led Key Stage worship (teacher rotation, 09:15/10:00, hall)
- Thursday class-based (classroom, flexible)/church worship (church, 09:15 - each class on rotation – led by priest, children, staff)
- Friday – DHT whole school celebration worship (10AM, hall)

All worships start in a calm way with the use of music, inspiring quotes and pictures as the children enter. Worship is a time for reflection and a 'quite talk with God' and so everyone is expected to allow this to happen unimpeded. Worship is seldom used as a time to give out notices to children and this would only ever happen once the worship is completely finished and the 'sending out' has been reached

The school will worship as a whole in church at least once a half term and weekly during Lent.

Parents are informed of their right to withdrawal re: the child from worship after discussion with the head teacher.

Worship is a key time for a child's spiritual development and it is not the school's policy to see worship time as a time to withdraw children to do other learning.

## **5 Content and Approaches**

Most worship is planned around Gospel Values of the school, other Christian Values (Fruits and Shoots), a celebration of learning and observance of the Church Year. We use a range of approaches to our worship including adult and pupil led, storytelling, music and drama.

## **6. Resources**

At Leyland St. James' we believe that we should inspire our children's spirituality through the use of new resources therefore, based on Diocesan recommendations, we make ongoing purchases of quality collective worship resources and practical resources to support Godly Play and spiritual reflection. Money's for this are taken from the 'resources' and 'training' element of the budget.

## **7. Consultation, Management, Recording and Review**

The Collective Worship co-ordinator (the head teacher):

- Attends Diocesan cluster meetings and training re: resources/ideas/practices
- Purchase Collective Worship resources.
- Plans the themes and suggested content, which are shared with the priest, all staff and our 'Chaplin'.
- Leads or directs training
- Ensures that spirituality developments are included in the School Improvement Plan.
- Ensure that the SIP also outlines Diocesan training and development for staff.
- Ensures that Collective Worship is:
  - Monitored weekly by children
  - Impact measures by children's voice and community voice.
  - Discussed at the governor's Ethos Committee
- The policy is reviewed at the Ethos Committee and is also shared across all governors.

## **8. The legal requirements for Collective Worship in our school**

*(a) Legal Basis:*

Collective Worship in Church Schools is governed by both the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts as well as by the Trust Deed of the School. The Collective Worship provided by the school must be in accordance with the Trust Deed.

*(b) Daily Worship*

Daily Collective Worship has to be provided for every pupil. This worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, separate Key Stage groups, year groups or house groups or in classes or tutor groups, but not faith groups. Worship may take place at any point in the school day.

*(c) Worship in Church - Aided Schools.*

Worship should normally take place on the school premises, but may take place in Church on special occasions.

*(d) Parental rights of withdrawal*

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship and this provision and its limitations are indicated in the school prospectus/web site.

The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England (Methodist) Foundation. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England (Methodist) ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

*(e) Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship*

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Head Teacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese or District. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures come into play and matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese would be referred to the Superintendent Minister and then the Connexional Authorities).