

Always building friendships with one another, whilst being thankful for what we have.



Remembering to forgive when we have been wronged and hoping to help others less fortunate than ourselves.

## The Magdalen Church of England / Methodist Primary School



### Collective Worship Policy

*Review Date: September 2022*

Determined to show compassion for those around us and develop a community that embraces justice and peace.

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### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

#### Introduction

At The Magdalen Church of England / Methodist Primary School collective worship provides an opportunity for the school community to participate in daily, shared experiences of giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God, in accordance with the requirements of the Education Reform Act of 1988, and the recommendations of the Diocesan Board of Education.

#### Core Values:

The Magdalen Church of England / Methodist Primary School and community believe in the core values of humility, service, wisdom, hope, trust, peace, compassion, friendship, thankfulness and justice and seek to teach and model these in the daily life of our school

The school motto is ***In God's Hands we can succeed and achieve together!***

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions
- Those from other faith backgrounds
- Those of no faith

Collective worship in school is an experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Church of England tradition. As a Church of England / Methodist school our whole curriculum is set within a Christian context. The daily act of collective worship is an integral part of the ethos of the school from which so much of the school's daily life stems.

This commitment is reflected in our Home-School Agreement. This is re-launched each year and our current Home-School Agreement has been signed by parents and children during our Autumn Term parents meetings.

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It is expected that all children take part in R.E. and collective worship but, although never exercised, parents/carers do have the right to request exemption for their child/ren from collective worship. Should exemption be requested the school would work with parents/carers to see what arrangements could be made for the supervision of the children.

### **The Aims of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all children and staff:

1. To learn about the fundamentals of the Christian faith
2. To contemplate something of the mystery of God
3. To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
4. To explore their own beliefs
5. To respond to and celebrate life
6. To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
7. To develop a common ethos and shared values
8. To enrich religious experience
9. To grow in liturgical understanding and development
10. To reinforce positive attitudes
11. To participate fully
12. To take time out 'to wonder at' the glory of God
13. To encourage and promote a respect for people of other cultures and creeds and increase children's awareness of the beliefs, worship and festivals of other cultures and creeds

### **Principles**

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

1. Give glory and honour to God
2. Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Church of England character
3. Give children positive liturgical experiences

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**In order to do this, celebrations will:**

- Be kept small whenever possible or appropriate to help personalize the experience
- Be short and appropriately paced
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings
- Engage children fully, with an emphasis on using story, music, drama, art etc. to stimulate the children's involvement

**Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship**

Collective worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum.
- Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship involving consultation with staff and our Parish Priest and with reference to school aims and policies
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop in children skills that enable them to participate fully in worship and to prepare, organise and lead worship as appropriate
- to offer opportunities when members of the school can share, pray, reflect, listen, praise and make positive contributions
- to foster a sense of awe and wonder at creation, by enabling the children to reflect upon the world around them, and nurture awareness of the creative power of God and the wonder and mystery of his creation.

**Record of Collective Worship**

Collective worship is recorded to keep note of themes, hymns sung, leaders, pupil groupings and visiting speakers.

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### **Parish Links**

The school has close and valued links with All Saints Church, and The Wainfleet Methodist Chapel both Father Gary, Rev. Graham Miles and Sue Alldread take it in turns to lead a whole school act of worship every week.

### **The Role of the Collective Worship Co-ordinator**

The school's co-ordinator for Collective Worship is the Head teacher. The responsibilities of this role include:

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship, in consultation with all staff, the Parish Priest and governors, in particular Foundation governors
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which may at times form part of the School Improvement Plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age and aptitudes of children
- Liaising with staff to organise themes for worship
- Assisting governors to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship

### **Professional Development**

- Keeping up to date by personal reading
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- Leading and organising in-service training for staff as appropriate

### **Planning, Recording, Monitoring and Evaluating**

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, acts of collective worship led by different teachers
- Observing all acts of worship led by children to monitor their participation and response
- Monitoring standards and developments in Collective Worship and discussing these with the Parish Priest and governors, in particular Foundation governors

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### **Communication**

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship
- Reporting to and consulting with governors and the Parish Priest and Methodist Minister regarding progress and areas for further development
- Supporting colleagues in the delivery of acts of worship as appropriate
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaising regularly with the parish priest and Methodist Minister

### **Resources**

- Regularly audit resources for collective worship in consultation with the school's R.E Coordinator
- Develop resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, music, visitors, new and relevant books etc.

### **Inclusion**

Collective worship is planned so that it engages all children. Staff use a variety of stimuli to ensure the maximum benefit from the experiences offered. These include:

- music
- artefacts
- pictures
- special objects
- stories
- drama

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors annually. The parish priest and the Methodist Minister and the governors play a most important role in this. The policy and practice for Collective Worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all children and whether children are making progress in acquiring skills and understanding so that they participate in and contribute meaningfully to acts of worship.

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**Resources:**

Staff leading collective worship plan their own resources and school resources are kept in the resource cupboard.

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