

# JENNETT'S PARK C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Policy on Collective Worship

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### **Introduction**

Collective worship is central to the life of Jennett's Park CE Primary School. Worship offers the pupils and staff in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian vision and ethos. It provides the opportunity to share experiences, ideas and understanding with the importance of reflection, stillness and a sense of being present ('now' moments) and is explicitly shared. Our school is a community that celebrates religious, cultural and ethnic diversity and encourages dialogue and understanding. We believe that we can all learn from each other and that collective worship is an entitlement for all.

In worship we create the opportunity to explore the place of faith in each of our lives, and in the communities in which we live. We warmly invite all members of our school community to join our worship. Pupils, staff and parents of all faiths and none are welcome to worship which is an expression of our distinctive Christian vision. Daily acts of worship provide a space for observing, experiencing and participating through prayer, practices, Christian and inter-faith stories, reflection of the Bible and liturgy and songs. Opportunities to reflect on the 'wows' of life such as the awe and wonder and the beauty and joy of the world are given, as well as time to reflect and empathise of the 'ow' moments of pain and/or disappointment. Time is given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark seasonal Christian and interfaith festivals and celebrations in the liturgical calendars. Our principles of worship mean it is inclusive and contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils. It is invitational and respects the dignity of all participants, it is inspiring and experiential.

Our collective worship provides pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- Celebrate –
  - Christian seasons and festivals
  - festivals and symbolic events of multifaith
  - school values associated with our vision
  - Pupils' and adults' achievements
- Experience prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- An understanding of the importance of prayer, participation and lead in prayer
- Nurture a reflective approach to life, the purpose of life, including the exploration of deep questions
- Develop as a community, centred on our clear and distinctive Christian vision
- Experience a variety of styles of worship
- Participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship • feel safe and affirmed
- Worship God on their own terms.
- Provide a sense of occasion that is separate from the rest of the school day

Worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth
- enable participants to consider moral questions in a Christian context
- enhance social understanding and encourage responses to issues through courageous advocacy
- give participants a chance to reflect on the place and importance of faith in the lives of people today • encourage participants to explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage
- reflect the teachings of Jesus and a trinitarian theology.

Collective Worship is an expression of our vision and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school. At Jennett's Park we aim to ensure we live out our vision:

Empowering our children to flourish and achieve under God's love. This comes from the passage in the bible where Jesus says: I have come to let you live life in all its fullness (John 10:10)

Our Rainbow Promise underpins everything we do at school. Just as the Rainbow was a sign of God's promise to Noah that from that moment God would enable Noah and the people of the earth to flourish and experience life in all its fullness. So as a school community we promise to do our best to enable all the pupils and adults of our school to flourish academically and professionally to reach their potential.

The Rainbow is also a symbol of the diversity of our school community, but as a church school we recognise that we are all created and valued by God, and so as a school community we commit to care for and value each other.

The dove symbolises our need to persevere in some aspects of life as it is not always the first time we find success. It was not the first time that Noah had tried to find dry land and so we much seek strength within ourselves and from God to achieve.

All children and young people have a right to a primary education, which should be free. Our aim is that learning at Jennett's Park CE Primary School should empower children. It should celebrate success and progress for all, and be part of our role as heart of the local community and serving our local community.

### **Promises**

Our vision as a school, is to have every child achieving their greatest potential academically, socially and spiritually. We say we wish to empower children to flourish and achieve under God's Love and that we will Live life in all its fullness (John 10:10)

Our whole school community lives out our core Christian Values within the Rainbow Promise through everything we say and do in school. These are our Promises to keep to our children to be able to serve the common good with our work as part of the Church of England.

| <b>At Jennett's Park we are:</b>                        | <b>Our promises:</b>  |
|---|---|
| <b>Educating for Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills</b>       | To help grow resourceful, resilient and reflective children who are equipped with the skills, knowledge and tenacity empower themselves, their learning throughout their lives.                   |
| <b>Educating for Hope and Aspiration</b>                | To inspire and enrich lives beyond current opportunities and experiences in order to open minds to the potential their future holds   |
| <b>Educating for Community and Living Well Together</b> | To be a multi-cultural, inclusive community of individuals loved by God who feel valued and involved where we create qualities of character to enable people to flourish.                         |
| <b>Educating for Dignity and Respect</b>                | That children might know how much that they are loved and valued by so that they might show dignity and respect for themselves and others by carefully and safely thinking through their actions. |

### **Purpose and Aims of Collective Worship**

Collective worship at Jennett's Park CE Primary is of a clearly Christian character, recognising the diversity of our community. It provides occasions when the school community pupils gather together whereby pupils are given opportunities to reflect on relevant Christian, moral and spiritual issues, drawn from a variety of sources, thereby enriching their experience of life. Worship is an expression of our Christian vision and is a means of recognising and celebrating our associated values and

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achievements. In worship all participants are recognised for their personal achievement, both within school and in the community.

Collective Worship aims for the following:

- introduce pupils to worship appropriate for their age, which although inclusive, draws upon the riches of the Anglican and other Christian traditions.
- provide an experience of worship which allows participants to reflect and respond to the presence of God.
- introduce pupils to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year.
- allows participants to explore a variety of ways of praying and introduces them to some well-known Christian prayers, e.g. the Lord's Prayer and the Grace.
- encourage participants to wonder and reflect on the 'big' questions that life poses. Assist pupils to have an increased awareness and to reflect upon fundamental issues about life, wonder and mystery of the world around us
- enhance, complement and extend curricular work
- recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, lifestyles and faiths which exist in our school and local community;
- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued, safe and respected
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the lives of the pupils
- strengthen and support the school community by giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school.
- celebrate the gifts that each person brings to the school community, recognising that we are all unique yet special to God and made in God's image.
- foster an appreciation of the natural world and an awareness of our responsibility to care and maintain it
- Include appropriate references to and elements of other faiths and secular worldviews
- include opportunities to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils.
- develop clear partnerships between worship in the school and the wider community.

### **The Pattern and delivery of Collective Worship**

Collective worship takes place in a variety of forms, for example, together in the school hall, in classrooms, in the music room, in the dance studio and our outdoor space. At Jennett's Park, we have a Reverend who supports the school, showcases an assembly weekly and offers services at the local church. We follow the seasons of the Church year and within these significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost. Important days in the school calendar such as Remembrance and the Leavers' Service also feature in collective worship. The content for each term's collective worship will broadly reflect the Christian festivals of that term and the values of the school's Rainbow Promise.

A typical week at Jennett's Park will follow the Worship timetable below:

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Monday    | Headteacher Assembly                      |
| Tuesday   | Candle Time and class assemblies          |
| Wednesday | Singing Assembly (KS1 + KS2)              |
| Thursday  | Church Member or SLT Assembly (KS1 + KS2) |
| Friday    | Celebration Assembly (KS1 + KS2)          |

Early Years Foundation Stage:

Nursery will engage in Candle time every week to introduce Collective Worship to our youngest pupils, from the Spring term. Reception will also have Candle time in class every week and from the summer term will join KS1 and KS2 for Collective Worship in the hall.

'SpaceMakers' is a resource for schools written by the Diocese of Oxford and is used across the school from EYFS to Year six. This is to enable Jennett's Park CE Primary school to embrace some of the ancient wisdom of the Christian Tradition via the contemplative pathway of Ignatian spiritual practices and connect spiritually to themselves and the wider community to promote well-being, flourishing and positive mental health. 'Spacemakers' is accessible to all faiths and worldviews to assist children in navigating the world around them. Pupils will foster the tools, techniques and experiences to hopefully pass on to their families and wider community. 'Spacemakers' include five contemplative practices to engage in over the school week to transform pupils and staff into a sense of calm and school culture and ethos.

The design of the toolkit is as follows:

## Design

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### Outline

The toolkit comprises five different practices, designed to fit within the shape of a normal five-day school week. They are:

1. **Stilling** – teaching young people to adopt appropriate posture for becoming aware of surroundings and the self, with breathing techniques and the introduction of a simplified form of the Examen.

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2. **Noticing** – this is a deeper cultivation of the Ignatian Examen technique, focused on noticing the presence and absence of God and the Good in your life. By noticing moments of 'desolation' and 'consolation' young people are encouraged to act, choose and seek consolation, that which energises and inspires.

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3. **Dwelling** – this is the cultivation of the Benedictine practice of Lectio Divina (or holy reading of scripture), which was also thoroughly embedded in Ignatian spirituality. By giving young people time to dwell with short, carefully chosen and inclusive phrases from scripture, they are invited to choose words or phrases which they connect to personally. This can also be practiced by engaging the senses and inviting participants to enter imaginatively into a scene from scripture, thus drawing out personal meanings and reflections. The listening skill can then be further developed by asking each of a partner to summarise the meaningful phrase or word from his opposite number, and vice versa.

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4. **Mending** – this is focused on the central Christian theme of reconciliation, which is also a prominent and pivotal feature of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises and the focus here is on the cross as a symbol of both human brokenness and the power of redemptive expressions of love. Techniques may be borrowed from circle time activities/Bespace stations. A brief activity with stones representing life's hurts, pain and sorrows and the 'web of wool' activity representing community strain and tension are also proposed methods

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5. **Blessing** – This final tool focuses on human flourishing and growth, using the metaphor of Root/Shoot/Fruit. Ignatius talks of the spiritual exercises leading to contemplation in action (i.e. they do not exist for their own sake, but rather to build 'the kingdom'). Consideration is therefore being given to blessing as the 5<sup>th</sup> tool. Having received blessing through the other 4 tools, how do we move forward to bless our families, homes, schools and communities: what fruit might emerge for all to share?

The Collective worship lead/s will monitor the impact of this tool on pupils and staff termly. Collective Worship, where appropriate, will be led by the children, taking ownership and leading worship.

### Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content, experience, what is most appropriate to the season/theme and the needs of the pupils. It is important for pupils to encounter a wide range of experiences through acts of worship such as drama, music and art. In collective worship the community gathers and worship takes place; there is no expectation or compulsion placed on pupils. Collective worship is an *opportunity* during which the participants, through a variety of experiences, can spiritually reflect. It is important to note that pupils have the opportunity to reflect on their own, should they wish to. The themes of worship are reflective of our visions and values.

Collective Worship will overtly reflect the Christian faith and traditions and will recognise a belief in the Trinitarian nature of God. It should be non-confessional and inclusive of all participants, whether they are of another faith or of no faith. Acts of worship may include moments of creative silence, Bible stories and stories from other faiths and traditions, pictures and symbols, artifacts and materials, children's contributions, sacred/ secular readings, prayer, hymns and songs and music. Acts of worship may include lighting a candle, reading sections from the Bible, song, reflection and/ or meditation. Pupils will frequently be involved in the leading of worship by introducing and concluding the time of worship and invited to offer a Hope, a Wish and a Prayer at the end of an act of worship.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Pupils are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to contribute to collective worship from time to time and are given guidance from our worship policy. Leaders from faiths are welcomed to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote participants' thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

**The time dedicated to Collective Worship is separate from the time given to Religious Education.**

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Collective Worship subject leader and SLT will monitor and review the practice of worship to ensure it's meaningful, appropriate and meeting the needs of the pupils. Our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

Collective Worship will be monitored and evaluated in a variety of ways, including:

- A Candle Time book in which pupils and/ or teachers are encouraged to document the activity/ outcome/ impact of an act of worship.
- Governors to observe and feedback an act of worship
- Composition and review of an action plan to self-evaluate the effectiveness of worship and meeting the different areas of the SIAMS inspection criteria
- Pupil interviews

### **Worship Council**

A worship council has been formed, led by the Collective Worship leaders, to monitor the impact of worship across the school and evaluate improvements. The aim of the Worship Council is creating advocates for reflecting and improving aspects of worship and worship areas, generating ideas, taking ownership and leading aspects of worship around the school.

### **The Legal Position**

By law, Collective Worship must be provided for every child every day and reflect the school's Trust Deed. This policy clearly sets our aspiration that collective worship is to be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community irrespective of their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and will never coercive or indoctrinatory.

### **The Right of Withdrawal**

Requests for withdrawal will be granted without delay. The 'religious grounds' do not have to be justified and explained by the parents. Should children be withdrawn, the school will provide adequate supervision to ensure their safety. Children should not be withdrawn from Collective Worship for other purposes, e.g. reading, music lessons, to do so is to break the law.

### **Spirituality**

With specific information on Spirituality, please refer to our Spirituality policy.

**RE Jennett's' Park Church Of England Primary School Confirmation of Withdrawal from Collective worship opportunities alongside additional personal prayer time.**

Dear Parent and Carer

At Jennett's Park we have regular opportunities to celebrate the unique nature of the Christian Faith. You may chose as parents or carers to with draw from any of these opportunities. Requests for withdrawal will be granted without delay. The 'religious grounds' do not have to be justified and explained by parents. Should children be withdrawn, the school will provide adequate supervision to ensure their safety. Children should not be withdrawn from Collective Worship for other purposes, e.g. reading, music lessons, to do so is to break the law.

Below are a list of the regular times and overviews.

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Day of week |   |
| Monday      | Whole school- introduces topic for week                   |
| Tuesday     | Class Candle time -                                       |
| Wednesday   | Singing/ Hymn Practice                                    |
| Thursday    | Service led by member of Church Clergy                    |
| Friday      | Celebration Assembly- sharing of Owl and Rainbow learners |

We start each assembly with a greeting, sing Christian Hymns and end with a Christian prayer. Wednesday Candle Assemblies are a reflection space on topic of week. Children may reflect on how this makes them feel they may contain a prayer.

Thursday is a Christian assembly. Friday has no religious content, but shares rewards and learning opportunities within our community. Throughout the year there may be other religious assemblies our school runs e.g. Harvest or Nativity Services. If children are withdrawn from sessions they will be in a classroom with an adult completing reflection tasks based around our Owl Learning Behaviours and Rainbow Values.

Children will be provided with a time for prayer in their own faith should this be required. Should a child be withdrawn only from the Thursday assembly, they will have an opportunity to pray. This prayer time will be supervised by an adult and will either take part at the beginning of the school assembly (children will remain behind and then join the assembly after prayers) or at the end of their lunchbreak on the days assemblies take place in classrooms (currently Monday and Wednesday).

Additional prayer time will be provided during Ramadan – please see the school's Ramadan policy.

We hope that clarifies your understanding and know that it is every family's decision to choose.

So that we can fully follow your wishes please indicate below your preferences. Please can you complete and return to the office. Then a copy will be passed to class teachers and to be stored in cumulative file in the office. We will acknowledge with email receipt.

Yours sincerely



Mrs E Savage

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Headteacher

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**Confirmation of Withdrawal from Collective worship opportunities together with a request for prayer time**

For the Attention of Mrs E Savage Headteacher

Name of Child(ren) .....

Class(es).....

I/ We wish for our child to be withdrawn from all Assemblies and singing practice at Jennett's Park Please note this includes Star Ambassador, Harvest, Remembrance, Nativity and play performances as well as any additional assemblies that might occur during the school year.

I/ We wish for our child to be withdrawn from only the Christian Collective worship assembly on a Thursday.

I/ We wish for our child to be not participate in the prayer, greeting and hymns, but they may be within the collective worship.

I/ We wish for our child to be given time to pray in their own faith before joining in collective worship.

Other request (please be as detailed as possible below)

Parental/ Carer Name .....

Signature .....

Date .....

