St Nicholas Priory VA CE Primary School & Nursery

'I did not come to be served but to serve.' Matthew 20.28

Collective Worship Policy

St Nicholas Priory CE VA Primary School defines collective worship as a time to remember who we are and our place in the world in a Christian context both individually and together as a community. We believe it is important to see collective worship as our time to gather as a community in the eyes of God to reflect, explore, respond, and celebrate.

Collective worship is an essential part of the day at Priory enabling time for self reflection and chance to engage in Christian values and self exploration of spirituality through a variety of worship mediums, congregation spaces and school community groupings.

Our school values (Aspiration, Hope, Service, Forgiveness, Trust and Love with Kindness weaved into each value as a thread) provide the basis for the themes of the Collective Worship each half term.

We aim to achieve high quality worship supported by strong Christian principles, within a Christian community.

We aim to do this through-

- Engaging in an act of community.
- Expressing praise and thanksgiving to God.
- Being still and reflecting.
- Exploring the big questions of life and responding to national events.
- Fostering respect and deepening spiritual awareness.
- Reflecting on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ.
- Affirming Christian values and attitudes.
- Sharing each other's joys and challenges.
- Celebrating special times in the Christian calendar.
- Contributing to our children's spiritual development
- Introducing our children to the wholly Christian worship of the Church of England
- Gaining in knowledge and understandings of the Christian faith

- ❖ Exploring and sharing the beliefs of others
- ❖ Contributing to our children's moral development
- ❖ Contributing to the holistic development of our children
- ❖ Celebrating the life of the school and the children in the presence of God
- ❖ Celebrating through the medium of song and music
- ❖ Looking out to the wider world

- ❖ Encouraging adults and children to flourish spiritually

Collective worship essentials

All collective worship within St Nicholas Priory follows a pattern to ensure consistency;

- All children and adults within the class are invited to participate
- The leader will say 'may the Lord be with you,' the community will respond 'and also with you'
- We light a candle and set the table (phase worship)
- We say the Lord's Prayer at the end
- The leader will say ' Go in peace to love and serve the Lord' , the community will respond 'In the name of God, Amen'

Collective Worship Formats

Collective worship takes many forms across the school. Throughout the week children will gather in classes, year groups and phases to worship.

Worship will be given in the form of -

- Phase worship - KS1/KS2 gather in the hall for phases led by SLT or RE Lead
- Minster led worship - Via weekly Youtube Minster staff hold a service which is shared with year groups in classes/phases
- Bible story based worship - Weekly bible stories are shared based on the half termly value which is shared with year groups in classes/phases
- Singing worship- Takes place in phases - KS1/KS2
- Celebration worship - In classes or year groups this enables a time to gather to celebrate

Records

We use plans which focus on a different Christian value each half term (Aspiration, Hope, Service, Forgiveness, Trust and Love) and are closely linked with the Christian church calendar. Clergy from the Minster, senior management and the standards leads all follow the same structure during collective worship using the St Nicholas Priory C.E.V.A. Primary School Guidance for Collective Worship and the gathering, sharing, responding and sending model.

Statutory Requirements

Collective worship at St Nicholas Priory CE VA Primary School complies with the legal requirements as set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The law states the 'Collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character which means that it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief '.

At St Nicholas Priory CE VA Primary School we recognise that collective worship needs to be flexible enough to encompass the age, aptitude and background of all the children in the school. Central to our understanding of worship in schools is the acceptance that our children should learn of the need for a spiritual dimension to life – the recognition that without it a pupil's total education will be noticeably impoverished.

Whilst recognising the fact that we live in a multi-faith society we believe that it is our responsibility to reflect Christian beliefs and accept that the school can, and should, be openly witness to its Christian nature.

All collective worship will be in accordance with the principles and beliefs of the Church of England.

Withdrawal rights

Worship is regarded as a special time in our school day where we gather as a school family. Reflecting our ethos as a Church of England school, collective worship is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none to be present with integrity. However, we respect the legal right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship, and should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with the requirements of the 1944 Act. Immediate withdrawal will be granted but following a withdrawal, we will offer parents an optional discussion with the headteacher to explore if any appropriate accommodations might be made.

Relationship with the church community

As a church aided school we maintain a good relationship with the staff of The Great Yarmouth Minster assist our Collective Worship by -

- Providing weekly virtual services accessible to year 1-6 and the wider school community through YouTube on the school website.
- Assisting with Collective Worship planning to provide a theologically rooted worship plan enhancing our school communities understanding of the bible
- Leading larger services at the Minster (eg. Welcome back service, Harvest, Christmas, Easter)

External Visitors

External visitors delivering Collective Worship will be subject to the safeguarding protocols outlined in the safeguarding and Visitor policies.

Next Review: July 2029