Collective Worship Policy

Date of publication: March 2017 Review date: Summer 2027

Core purpose statement
In a creative, caring environment, we all support and challenge each other to develop confidence and independence. As active global citizens, we are inspired to discover and succeed in lifelong learning.

Equality and Inclusion
The Exe & Moorsway Valley Federation is committed to the inclusion of pupils and stakeholders, regardless of age, race, gender or disability and expects all members of our school community to share in this commitment. Where necessary or appropriate we will make reasonable adjustments to ensure inclusion for all. We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Whilst being fully inclusive of all faiths and none, at our Church of England schools we aim for all elements of school life to reflect our Christian ethos. The teachings of Jesus challenged his followers when he first spoke them and continue to challenge us today. As we learn to grow together in community, we discover how Jesus' teaching can have a positive impact on our lives. When we follow the teaching of Jesus, sharing the teachings of Jesus and the church with those around us, we will be able to share success in many different forms.

In the Exe Valley & Moorsway Federation of schools, we provide an education of the highest quality to enable every child to realise their potential. At Brampford Speke, Cornwood, Thorverton and Silverton Church of England VC Schools, this takes place within a nurturing Christian community.

Introduction
The Exe Valley & Moorsway Federation believes that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our schools. It is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life, to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children.

Aims
The central aims of Collective Worship at the Exe Valley & Moorsway Federation schools are to:

- provide our children with regular opportunities for stillness and reflection
- promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community and all who belong in it, including the sharing of the achievements of our children.
- help children develop an understanding both of the nature and language of worship
- help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others

- support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication.

The Legal Position

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that collective worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils. Furthermore, acts of worship "must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, i.e. reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief." For Church schools within the Federation, Collective Worship is wholly of a Christian nature and for community schools it is broadly Christian in character. At the Exe Valley & Moorsway Federation we have developed a range of themes and topics through which collective worship takes place. Key themes include love, joy, trust, forgiveness, justice and the value of all human life. We believe these themes are clearly Christian in nature but are universal in their application. We recognise that in our school we have children from a variety of faith backgrounds and that many children have no religious background at all. Great care is taken in our collective worship to ensure that all children feel valued and special and that their integrity as human beings is consistently upheld. Collective Worship at the Exe Valley & Moorsway Federation is an inclusive activity. Parents do have, of course, the right of withdrawal from Collective Worship. Parents who have any concerns about the provision and practice of our Collective Worship are strongly encouraged to contact the Executive Headteacher.

Context of Collective worship

In order to promote children's learning, our acts of worship vary in size. The pattern of Collective Worship will vary from school to school but may include the following:

Whole school (introduction of special theme)
Theme developed through music
Classroom-based worship on theme
Keystage group development of theme
Whole school (celebration / conclusion of theme involving children's work and outside speakers)

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship. We record our acts of worship to inform our learning and plan for further developments. We are developing a range of resources to enhance children's learning. These include stories, music, slides, poems, pictures and posters and DVDs all of which we hope contribute to a stimulating and thoughtful time for our children.

Conclusion

Collective Worship plays a very important role in our schools as we seek to develop in our children the skills of reflection and empathy, to encourage and celebrate their successes and to promote their spiritual and moral development.

Agreed by Full Governing Board: 02.07.2024

Date of Implementation: 02.07.2024

Policy to be reviewed every 3 years

Date of next review: Spring 2027