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| **Signed By:** |
| **Approval Committee: Governing Body** |
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Powerstock CE VA Primary School



In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do:

Learning together to be the best that we can be!

Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

**Policy Statement**

In Powerstock School, worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school’s vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At Powerstock School, collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian and occasionally, other faith stories. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity as a focus. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian and other faith calendar events and festivals. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Legal Requirements**

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words, the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, “that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, is not relevant. Worship in Powerstock School should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The trustees/governing body of this school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

# **The right of withdrawal**

At Powerstock School there are occasionally children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious worldview. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. During this meeting, it may be helpful to establish:

* The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
* The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
* The practical implications of withdrawal
* Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and headteacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

* Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
* That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

# **Guiding Principles**

Collective worship in Powerstock aims to:

* Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
* Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth.
* Be the central vehicle by which the school’s vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged andengaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
* Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of different faiths and none to be present with integrity.
* Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief.
* Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
* Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
* Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
* Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
* Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

# **Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation**

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

* Pupils’ personal development and wellbeing
* Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education (SMSC) and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)
* Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
* Care, guidance and support
* Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
* Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
* Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included in the school prospectus and / or on the school website.

# **How Collective worship is organised:**

**Leadership**

* The Head Teacher leads daily worship three or four days a week including our Celebration Assembly on Friday mornings. Parents are invited to this weekly. Our music leader leads our praise through singing on Thursday mornings. Children are invited to lead collective worship according to our School Christian Values or in line with a termly theme eg. Climate Change or following a personal conviction or interest where they can become our “courageous advocates” and speak out on global and local issues.

**Planning**

* Annual Worship plan is created by the Head Teacher and Reverend Chris and the children are involved in evaluating the plan and offering suggestions.
* Collective worship is based on our six Christian values which change half termly:

Generosity, Friendship, Respect, Compassion, Truthfulness and Perseverance

* For Harvest, Christmas and Easter, the children are guided in and prepare for church services to reflect the liturgical year. We aim to broaden our view and choose global themes and issues in our preparation eg. Harvest for the World looking at careful food management towards sustainability with any produce donated to our local food bank: Cupboard Love.
* Christian Values are explicitly linked to Bible stories so that children of all ages can understand how we live in our school. Eg. Friendship and compassion told through Jesus and Zaccheus. Generosity told through Jesus and the rich man.
* The Anglican tradition is lived out in our collective worship practice: A child will pick a pebble with another child’s name (all children have their own individualised one). That child will light our candle and say “May the peace of the Lord be always with you”. The rest of the children then respond: “and also with you”. The leader or group of children reads or enacts a story or scenario for discussion. The children respond if they want to, at the time or later in our Reflections book. A prayer is said together – this may be in relation to the service or our school prayer\* or the Lord’s Prayer.
* We use a variety of resources to engage all children: websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points e.g. a picture or candle
* World faiths are noted and children are shown how others worship and celebrate festivals.
* Children are given time for stillness and reflection if they want it at each Worship. The leader will talk quietly to reinforce any themes given and also to give the children time to think deeply about themselves and others. Prayer times are special times when children can join in or sit quietly in respect of others.

**Organisation**

The children are invited to come together to Collective Worship in our Seatown Class. Burton class sit at the front with Seatown at the sides with Cogden Class behind Burton Class. If we are teaching/learning the school prayer at the beginning of the year, the children sit in a circle so that everyone can see.

Collective Worship is held at 9.10 each morning (9.15 on Fridays).

We go to church every other week with Reverend Chris. On alternate weeks the children have a class assembly. We have a beautiful Quiet Garden which can be used in the summer by a class at a time.

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# **Staff development and training**

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

The Head teacher is the Collective Worship lead and attends the SDBE’s PSA CPD sessions for any updates and training.

# **Monitoring and evaluation**

* The impact of Worship is monitored by twice yearly reviews (separate for KS1 and 2).
* Foundation governors are invited in to Celebration assemblies and also to any other collective worship.

# Governor visit forms are completed to aid any improvement and to bring to governor meetings.

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

**\*School Prayer:**

**This is our school.Let love abide here.We know that many stones make a building but many hearts make a school.Thank you for every person who is a part of our family.Thank you for making us, us, for everything that we have and everything that we are.Thank you that we are unique.May we blossom and flourish as we grow, just like our conker tree.Help us all to learn from each other, to support each other and to be the best that we can be.Be with us and go before us day by day.Amen**

1. “To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”. William Temple (1881-1894) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)