



St Mary's CofE Lower School
Collective Worship and Values Based Education Policy July 2019

Previously ratified: May 2018
Ratified annually

“Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity.”
Titus 2:7

Rationale

Clophill St. Mary's is both a Christian, Church of England Lower School and a Values School. Both our religious character and our pride in promoting and developing a rich and successful 'values culture' come together naturally to create what we consider well-rounded children and grown-ups for the future.

We believe that it is our responsibility to reflect Christian beliefs and accept that the school can, and should, openly witness its Christian nature whilst welcoming and valuing all faiths in our school community. This collective worship is underpinned and combined with 'Values based Education'. Throughout this policy it is shown that these values underpin our school ethos, curriculum and acts of collective worship. This is successful because our whole school team are committed to weaving the principles into their school day. Our values are Christian values and we link Bible stories to them. This maintains a focus for our Christian ethos.

Aims and objectives:

We ensure that we:

- Develop community spirit as the school meets as one body and reflects upon its common ethos, religions and shared values
- Provide an opportunity for the children and staff to worship their God
- Allow children to fully understand our current focus value in great detail and reflect on how the messages given and lessons learnt can impact on their own daily lives
- Provide opportunity for personal growth through experiences of stillness, peace, awe, mystery, reverence and belonging
- Enable children to explore their own beliefs, both religious and values based
- Enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues as a community
- Encourage participation, response and opportunity for calm, still reflection
- Allow children to feel safe and secure in expressing their own beliefs, doubts, concerns and hopes
- Allow the children to develop a better understanding of themselves – developing high levels of self-confidence and self-esteem

Implementation:

Our Christian character and our commitment to values are demonstrated across the life of the school, however, once a day we will meet to:

- be together
- pause and be still
- reflect and pray
- celebrate and shine
- worship and sing

This time together is valued by all pupils and adults in the school.

Further, in-depth detail of each day's collective worship can be found in the Worship File held by the Headteacher, however all collective worship opportunities follow a similar process as pictured below:



Weekly worship routine:

On a daily basis there are different themes or people leading worship:

- Monday: Open the Book – Linked to Bible stories
- Tuesday: Rev'd Jane – Linked to our current Value
- Wednesday: Teachers – Values Worship
- Thursday: Class Worship – Developing Wednesday Worship
- Friday: Celebration Worship

Each class also has the opportunity to lead worship within school at least once a year.

The pupils in school will also be given the opportunity to attend “Messy Church” once a week on a Thursday afternoon, led by our R.E. Co-ordinator, Mrs. Arnold. This will involve activities linked to our Values and Bible stories.

Our Church:

- St. Mary the Virgin Church plays a key role in Clophill St. Mary's CofE Lower School, of which we are proud
- The whole school worships in the Church regularly, to which family members are invited
- Rev'd Henley, from St. Mary the Virgin Church, Clophill, usually leads our Church services
- Rev'd Jane, the School Chaplain, also leads Church services. She usually leads worship for the whole school on a weekly basis
- Many Christian festivals are given distinctive Church services

Equal Opportunities:

At Clophill St. Mary's CofE Lower School we are committed to providing equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school. This is irrespective of race, gender, disability, faith or religion or socio-economic background. We will ensure a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life. We expect everyone who is part of, or who visits this school, to support this commitment through both their actions and words.

Where children are removed from Religious Worship, due to personal belief, alternative, equally high-quality provision will be provided to allow reflection.

(Please refer to the Equalities Policy)

Monitoring and Evaluation:

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all staff, the Headteacher and the Governing Body.

The Religious Education Co-ordinator will monitor and evaluate the development of Values and Worship regularly following the yearly cycle of subject improvement. This will also involve reporting to Governors on a half-termly basis through the R.E. and Values update.

The Religious Education Co-ordinator will undertake an annual cycle of action planning which will link to the annual cycle of subject improvement, linked to the School Development Plan and will feed into the Headteacher's termly report to Governors and SEF as appropriate.

Worship will be evaluated on a regular basis by staff and Governors through the use of whole school and class worship evaluation sheets.

The Religious Education Co-ordinator is responsible for supporting and training colleagues and families and friends of the school and for being informed of current national and local developments within the subject.