

# Mawnan CE VA Primary School



## Collective Worship

### Review

Review Cycle	Date of Current Policy	Author(s) of Current Policy	Review Date
3 years	October 2017	Headteacher	October 2020

### Ratification

Role	Name	Signature	Date

### Details of Policy Updates

Date	Details

## **Mawnan CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

# **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

### **Legal requirements**

Mawnan School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School. It has a Trust Deed which states that worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England'. In accordance with legal requirements (School Standards & Framework Act 1998) an act of collective worship, taking account of the age, aptitude and background of pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents. The school exerts no pressure on children to become worshipping Christians or to take part in any activity that will compromise their own faith or lack of faith. The school expects that withdrawal will only be made following discussions with the Headteacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

### **Rationale**

Our school motto is 'Learning and playing in faith together'. Collective Worship is at the heart of working out what that means in terms of school life and relationships with the wider community. We aim for acts of worship to be inclusive of all pupils and there is an expectation that all pupils will be present. It is a shared activity that allows for a variety of responses, and provides an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on stimuli which allow the human spirit to respond with integrity. Collective Worship assists in embedding the values that underpin the life of our school. The school will also offer the opportunity to explore, reflect upon and respond to the mystery and meaning of the Christian faith and other world faiths.

### **Aims of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship aims to:

- Provide an experience of worship that will allow children to respond to the presence, power and peace of God.
- Introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to some well-known. Christian prayers, e.g. Lord's Prayer and the Mawnan School prayer (see appendix 1).

- Strengthen and support the school community giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school (see appendix 2).
- Celebrate the gifts that each child brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God.
- Encourage children to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around them.
- Foster a concern for others within the school and wider world.
- Foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.
- Allow reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings.
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including Christian festivals and those of the other faith communities represented within the school.
- Contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.

## **Organisation**

Worship is held at 9:00am on a Monday, 1:15pm on a Wednesday and Thursday and 2:50pm on a Friday. Every week we hold four whole school acts of worship, emphasising the unity of the school, and one class based act of worship led by class teachers and tailored more to the specific needs of different age groups. Our local Church of England vicar leads one act of worship per half term and our local Open the Book team come to lead worship every fortnight, all others are led by the head teacher and other members of staff. Children are also encouraged to lead all or part of the worship or may contribute with readings or prayers.

Worship is held in the hall, where there is a wooden cross as a focal point and a candle is lit at the start of each worship. The school band play as children enter and leave the hall to encourage an atmosphere of reflection. Education, celebration, praise and hope are essential features of our worship. Therefore, our aim through worship is primarily to educate our children and make them aware of what it means to be a community committed to serving God and caring for each other and the environment. In so doing we hope to create an atmosphere in which pupils are invited rather than compelled to explore issues for themselves, reflect upon and learn from their own experiences and the experiences of others, develop sensitivity and a sense of wonder, awe and mystery for the world of which they are part. Using the whole range of creative arts to appeal to the pupils' imagination.

## **Prayer**

Prayer is a vital part of our worship and at Mawnan we feel that prayer is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts. The aim is that prayer is meaningful to the pupils and reflects their age and understanding. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and 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.

## **Song and Music**

Song and music is a very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the school community. We have a bank of music from which to draw, taken from a variety of cultures and types. The long established and talented Mawnan band perform in every worship and we try to select our songs and music carefully to match the theme.

## **Recording and evaluation**

All acts of worship are planned and recorded, and there is a regular evaluation to see how worship was received. This is achieved by asking a child, teacher, class, or governor to reflect on the worship, and these evaluations are part of the ongoing monitoring of collective worship at staff meetings.

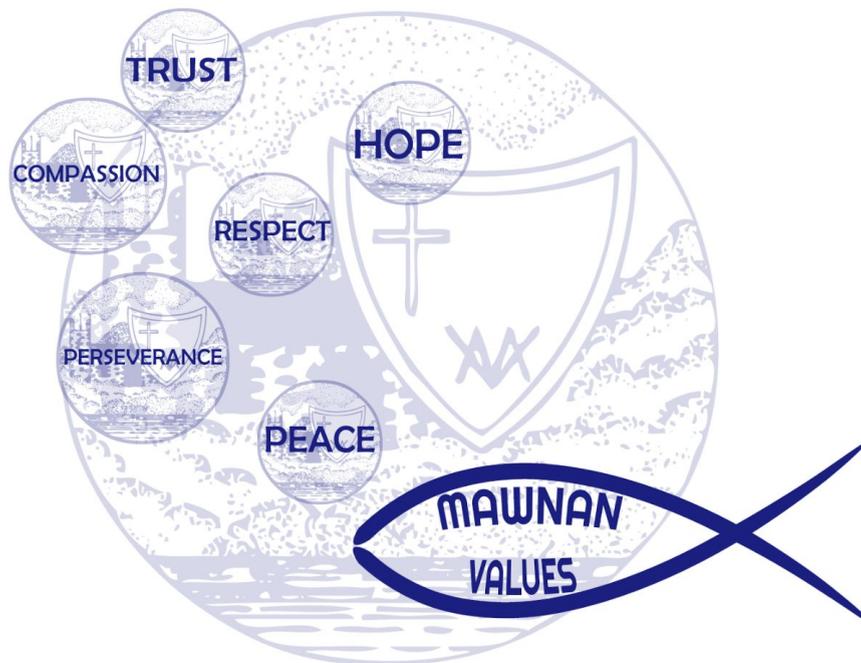
## **Monitoring**

The collective worship will be monitored by:

1. Discussion at staff and ethos committee meetings (minutes to be kept with the records). This discussion will include:
  - Review of content and methodology;
  - Suitability for age, aptitude and ability, variety of styles, groupings, leadership;
  - Links to curriculum and classroom experience;
  - Resources and budget;
  - INSET.
2. Attendance at worship by foundation governors for monitoring purposes;
3. Asking 'are the requirements of law being met?'



Appendix 2 – Mawnan Values



Appendix 3 - Collective Worship Organisation Plan

<p><b>Welcoming</b></p>	<p>Music: Visuals: Focus table:</p>
<p><b>Gathering</b> We gather together and greet each other. We all come to play part in this community.</p>	<p>Greeting:</p>
<p><b>Engaging</b> We engage with the big things and the little things in life. We encounter religious stories. We are listening for God's message.</p>	
<p><b>Responding</b> We respond to what we have heard and seen. We respond together. We worship God.</p>	
<p><b>Sending</b> We are sent out to love and serve one another and to make a difference in the world. We are all dismissed with God's blessing.</p>	