



# **Collective Worship Policy**

**2024-2025**

## **OUR TRUST'S PRAYER**

Heavenly Father

Let peace, friendship and love grow in our schools

Send the Holy Spirit to give:

Excellence to our learning

Love to our actions and

Joy to our worship

Guide us to help others

So that we may all

Learn, Love and Achieve, Together with Jesus.

Amen

## Our Christian Vision is:

*'Learning and growing together to achieve our best in the love of God'*

'Learning and growing together to achieve our best in the love of God' sums up our school vision and ethos that all children will have the opportunity to experience God's love and fulfil their potential across the curriculum, valuing themselves and others, living out our Christian values in order to make a positive difference in the world. This vision underpins our collective worship policy.

## Our School Aims

In order to prepare today's children for tomorrow's challenges, Rainford CE Primary Schools aims to achieve the following:

- Every child will be encouraged to understand the meaning and significance of faith, experience God's love and develop the spirituality to enable them to live out our Christian values of love, joy, peace, friendship, forgiveness, perseverance and justice
- Every child will achieve their full potential through being a highly motivated, resilient, and independent learner who embraces new experiences, has confidence to tackle challenges and go onto develop a lifelong love of learning.
- Every child will value themselves as a unique individual with special qualities and strengths developing self-discipline and honesty; taking responsibility for their own actions and appreciating their ability to make a positive difference in the world.
- Every child will appreciate and respect others, celebrate differences between individuals and groups and respect and care for God's creation and the environment.
- Every child will be encouraged to make healthy choices and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

In order to do this, we will constantly reflect the Christian ethos of our school in our relationships with our children, their families, our staff, the church and the wider community.

# Equal Opportunities Statement

Rainford CE Primary School believes that it is important that everyone in school is valued as an individual, irrespective of gender, disability, cultural or religious origin, ability and social circumstance.

## Rationale and legalities

- The collective worship at Rainford CE School is in accordance with the school's Trust Deed.
- Collective Worship at our school reflects and reinforces the school's Christian Vision
- Collective worship is a legal requirement in all schools.

Church of England schools serve the local community which will include pupils of the Christian faith, of other faiths and of no faith. In drawing up this policy, regard has been given to the age, aptitude and background of the children in our school. At Rainford CE Primary School collective worship is central to our life and it reflects and explores the school's distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, spiritual development and well-being of all – pupils and staff. Worship offers our school community an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian ethos. It reflects our Christian vision and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

Collective Worship at Rainford CE Primary School is planned to:

- be inspirational, invitational and inclusive. It should engage all present and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school, as well as themselves as individuals
- regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the school's Christian vision
- have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners (including adults) to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- encounter worship and prayer as part of the natural rhythm of the day
- help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide

- enable pupils to encounter the vocabulary of worship
- challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection and Stillness
- contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with something more than the obvious, something to wonder at and something to respond to
- enable worship to impact all areas of the curriculum
- be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance
- affirm and celebrate our shared Christian Values and beliefs as well as recognising the specialness of key multi-faith festivals
- Acknowledge the uniqueness of the individual, celebrate diversity, create a sense of shared values and of our common humanity within school, society and the wider world.

## Leading worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school (SLT) and from the local Church. Our Vicar is Rev. Janet Heighton at All Saints Church, Rainford. Visitors are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy. Occasionally leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

We have pupil worship ambassadors who meet once a half term to promote the Christian distinctiveness of the school. They do this through planning worships; developing the school environments; and work closely with the clergy. Pupils also take part in class worship weekly which provide them with opportunities to plan, lead and deliver worship to their peers and teachers. Each class leads one class service per year to which parents, friends and family are invited.

Collective Worship is evaluated throughout the year. The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at Rainford CE Primary School include opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate;
- developing spirituality;
- sharing and experiencing differences;
- developing a culture of learning;
- building a sense of group identity;
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);
- learning how to behave in a large social group;
- exploring feelings and emotions;

- learning how to perform in front of an audience;
- learning how to respond to a performance;
- making visible the school's leadership;
- developing inner awareness.
- exploring fundamental British Values

## Structure of Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for worship daily and we recognise the importance of marking it out from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by having inspirational music each week, lighting candles, being still and having time to offer our thoughts to God and also take moments for personal reflection.

We also ensure that Christian Liturgy is central to our Worship with set openings and dismissals, the Lord's Prayer at each Worship, reference to Bible verses and responses with which the children are familiar. Our children are becoming more familiar with the concept of the Holy Trinity and we refer to The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit in a way in which the children understand.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 3-stage structure of planning which is achieved through our 'windows', 'mirrors' and 'doors' approach to developing spirituality.

Whole school worship takes place four times a week.

### **Monday**

we enjoy worship led by the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher. This will always focus on our value for the half term.

### **Tuesday**

We welcome the church each Tuesday to lead our worship. This worship either focuses on our value or a key event relevant to the Church calendar.

### **Wednesday**

Worship through Song. This is led by Alice Jaeger who is our choir leader. Faith is explored through the joyous experience of collectively joining in song.

### **Thursday**

Class Worship is led by pupils using Picture News to explore topical events/issues in the world.

### **Friday**

This is our Celebration worship. During this special event we share achievement from outside of school; star awards of the week, attendance, birthdays, and other school awards.

*Other teachers may lead worship across the week on occasion based on a theme or event relevant or current to their learning or based on a wider school PSHE theme or current Christian Value. This is always done through a distinctly Anglican lens.*

## Other Collective Worship Events

The whole school and staff attend church to worship together with parents and friends and celebrate the major Christian festivals throughout the year. These special services are led by the children and the talk is given by a clergy member or a special visitor. Some examples are below:

### **HARVEST SERVICE**

We hold a special Harvest Service in Church each October, which is led by the pupils of Year 4, and to which parents are invited.

### **NATIVITY PLAY**

This is an important act of worship which is organised by the KS1 classes.

### **EASTER SERVICE**

This is organised by the staff and children in Year 5, accompanied by whole school singing. Parents are invited to attend, and it is held at Church.

### **END of YEAR SERVICE**

Each year, the children from Year 6 attend the 'Leavers' Service' at Liverpool Cathedral for all those children who are leaving Church of England Primary Schools in the Liverpool Diocese.

### **LDST**

Our Trust hold termly Trust-Wide collective worship events which are wonderful occasions for all staff and children across the family of schools to come together. During these events, the Trust's Christian Vision and Values are celebrated. The Trust prayer is shared by all also.

## British Values

Our school core Christian values of Faith, Hope and Love ensure that British Values are implicit and embedded in all that we do. This is part of our long-term plan to prepare our children for living in modern Britain where we value every individual person whether child or adult. We actively promote equality and diversity. It also means that we will promote through discussion, respect for democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths. Evidence for this will come from work in classes as well as the various pupil leadership teams. We will challenge opinions or behaviours in anyone who does not uphold these values.

## Monitoring

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out regularly. Useful strategies for collecting evidence may include:

- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents and governors
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's (and staff's) attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- informal discussions with colleagues

## Entitlement

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

