Coniston CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

The school aims and vision statement inform the policy and practice of collective worship in our school. School worship is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian CofE foundation, the shared Christian values and ethos. Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and will reflect the Christian understanding of God as the Trinity. This will include belief in God as the source of all being and life, belief in Jesus who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection and belief in the Holy Spirit who makes the presence of Jesus known in the world. Jesus and His teachings will be a key focus, demonstrating the central position He occupies in Christian faith. Prayer and reflection will be central to worship, as a way of encouraging the spiritual development and wellbeing of our whole school community.

Our Vision and Values

Coniston Church of England Primary is a welcoming, happy and supportive school rooted in faith and love where everyone flourishes through the Christian values of **service, stewardship, respect** and **perseverance**. Our understanding of every child allows us to develop their unique gifts and talents. We enjoy learning together within our school family, our community and God's wider world drawing inspiration from our beautiful Lakeland setting and the awe, wonder and joy it creates.

Our strapline comes from Joshua 1:9 **'Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'**

We take inspiration from John Ruskin too:

'When love and skill work together expect a masterpiece.' John Ruskin

Aims

Through collective worship in our school we aim for all pupils and members of our school community to:

• be provided with an experience of worship that will allow a personal response to the presence, power and peace of God.

• be introduced to Christian language and symbolism, key Anglican traditions, practices, beliefs, The Bible, festivals and the cycle of the church year and develop their understanding of these.

• explore a variety of ways of reflection and praying, including well-known Christian prayers, e.g. The Lord's Prayer, and be encouraged to lead and create personal prayers, or reflections that will contribute to spiritual development.

• be strengthened and supported as a school community through worship giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school, setting them in their Christian context.

• celebrate the gifts that everyone brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God.

• use worship as an opportunity to develop leadership skills and to share learning, ideas, thoughts, feelings and beliefs.

• be encouraged to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around us, so developing our personal spirituality.

• foster a concern for others within the school and wider world, also developing our links with other schools and faith communities, our charity work and our understanding of the major world faiths

• foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.

Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship provided for all pupils which takes account of their age and aptitude. (Education Reform Act 1988). Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements will be made to accommodate these children. Since this is a church school however, worship is central to its life and work and is regarded as a very important part of children's education.

Organisation

• Pupils and staff may worship together as a whole school or in class groups; there is regular opportunity for shared celebration worship which continually aims to include the wider school community of parents, families, governors, the village and church congregation; worship is held in various places such as classrooms, the hall, in all classes during class collective worship, in the church and outdoors in our beautiful grounds; there are also opportunities for spiritual reflection and prayer at other times each day

• Worship is held during the morning of each school day, usually from 10:30 to 10:45; on special occasions or shared open celebration worship, this time slot may be extended.

• Worship is led by a rota of staff, Rev Brian (our Vicar), Mrs Hallam (Chair of Governors), the local community, Chris Clark (Christian Youth worker) and pupils (who lead or take part in worship weekly, but are actively involved in different ways in all worship sessions); we also aim to include more visiting collective worship leaders from different traditions and other faiths whenever possible.

• Worship is planned by: the Coniston Worship Committee (CWC), which is made up of pupils (chosen annually), staff, Rev Brian, Mrs Hallam and Chris Clark; they meet regularly (usually termly), are actively pupil-led and organise the framework for worship and key church school events. Individual worship sessions are planned by the staff, clergy or pupil group responsible for leading that session, with reference to the Christian Values of the school and in line with seasonal Christian festivals. Records of collective worship are archived in the Collective Worship File in the hall and/or the server, along with records of all worship events, including CWC and whole school evaluation.

• Worship is resourced through the provision of books, a range of Bibles, artefacts, focus items (often pupil-created), ICT resources and music, stored in the hall and classrooms; the file 'Christian Values for Life' (Gloucester Diocese), 'Roots and Fruits' and associated materials are central to our shared resources.

• Pupils and staff are trained and supported as required through specific training led by Rev Brian Streeter and the Diocese, led by CWC and/or by relevant diocesan/county training events.

• A range of creative teaching and worship approaches are used, with our Christian Values as a core focus each term. Worship takes account of the church year, celebrates the major Christian and local festivals, uses the Bible as a source book of inspiration and learning, includes teaching about key Anglican traditions and practices, and demonstrates the Church of England's commitment to ecumenism and dialogue with other faiths by also including reference to these. Learning and spiritual development are encouraged through use of a variety of focus materials, music and reflection/prayer (often pupil-led) and active participation.

• The key themes of our worship, outcomes and special worship events are shared as widely as possible e.g. through home-school documents, displays in school, reporting in newsletters, the Parish Magazine and local newspaper.

• Worship is evaluated and monitored by our CWC, by comments left in our evaluation file or collected as part of special services/events, by pupils undertaking an evaluation activity during different acts of collective worship at the end of each term's key worship theme, by visits from our foundation

governors and annually as part of our shared stakeholders' self-evaluation as a church school. Evaluations are kept in our evaluation file as a reference book. The findings of our evaluations are shared and acted upon via the CWC to ensure that our worship is continually developing and improving.

Policy written by D Fitzsimons & pupils of the CWC, Autumn 2022

Reviewed: N Beaumont January 2025