

# St Nicolas' C of E Combined School



## Our School Vision

### ***Jesus said 'I am the vine and you are the branches'.***

Our school is rooted in the Christian Faith. Nourished by God, we want to grow together drawing on His strength to live out our Christian values so that we can reach out to others in our community.

We are all unique and together with God we want to be the best that we can be. As we learn together in a supportive and nurturing school, we will thrive and be ready to face the challenges of life.

## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **Members of staff responsible:**

Collective Worship Leader: Headteacher  
Curriculum Governors

### **Date of policy:**

February 2025

Review date: February 2028

### **Introduction**

At St Nicolas' we aim to affirm and celebrate through our collective worship, Our Vision, values and the ethos of our school. As a Church of England school, we reflect on our Anglican heritage and God will be the focus of our worship. We bear in mind the plural and secular nature of our society and how it affects our school and community.

School worship is the opportunity for pupils to find a place to develop their spirituality, a place where their sense of awe and wonder and their dreams can find expression. School is the place where this wide spectrum of aspiration and commitment is valued and celebrated. All contributions from both staff and children are important. It implies a trust between all concerned: governors, local clergy, head teachers, teachers, non-teaching staff, parents and children. It is important that individual beliefs are welcomed and respected and that Christian beliefs are shared and celebrated in ways that are inclusive and invitational.

### **A legal note**

By law, collective worship must:

- Be provided for every child every day;

- Reflect the School's Trust Deed.

We actively encourage all children to take part in worship at the school as the act of worship is central to our school values, ethos and the life of the school. Our aspiration is that it will be valuable and a valued experience for all whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory. However, we recognise a parent's legal right to withdraw children from collective worship but would ask in the first instance that they speak to the Headteacher.

### **What it includes**

Over the course of a term collective worship will include

- The teachings of Jesus and other Bible stories told dramatically by the 'Open the Book' team
- Moral stories from other sources and stories from other major religions
- Focus on the Christian calendar and celebrations of other world religions
- Christian hymns and songs relating to the focus of the assembly
- Children's own work and achievements
- Time for reflection

It takes place in a variety of groupings in the school hall, classrooms or on occasions outside. It also takes place in the Church. Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

### **Planning acts of collective worship**

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. They reflect the Church's year, current issues, values and themes. Class assemblies include presenting work and conducting performances and vary in format. They are adapted to the age, aptitude and backgrounds of the pupils.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussion with participants, observation and reflection and our evaluations are fed into future worship.

### **A typical week**

Collective worship will contribute to the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and will take a variety of forms. A typical week will be

Whole school 'worship through music' assembly led by the music teacher and supported by another member of staff

Class assembly led by children and class teachers to which parents of the participating class are invited (Autumn and Summer Terms); Assembly on non-class Tuesdays led by members of staff and/or our Year 5 pupil-led collective worship team

Whole School Assembly led by a teacher with guests including the vicar of St Nicolas' Church and visitors from other churches

'Open the Book' dramatised Bible stories by a team of teaching staff, members of the St Nicolas Church congregation and parents;

Celebration assembly led by the Headteacher or other senior teacher.

### **Collective worship in the church**

To celebrate special Christian festivals and other school celebrations, assemblies are held in St Nicolas' Church. These include Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest, St Nicolas' Day and the Leavers Service. Parents and members of the local community may be invited to share in some of these celebrations.

### **Singing and praying**

Each act of collective worship (assembly) includes the singing of at least one Christian hymn or song and concludes with a prayer which may include the Lord's Prayer and our School Prayer; the children are given the opportunity of joining in the prayer by saying 'Amen' together. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared on our worship. The children are encouraged to create their own individual prayers and each term we have a prayer lunch time when the children are given the opportunity to pray individually either orally or by drawing or writing a prayer and putting it in a prayer box. Our prayers are addressed to God, reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England.

### **Opportunities to develop spirituality**

Additional opportunities for reflection and mindfulness activities are offered in each classroom's prayer area and at the front of the school and include SpaceMakers contemplative tool kit and spirituality journals belonging to each cohort of children.