



## MONKS ELEIGH CEVC PRIMARY SCHOOL

*From our Mission statement:*

*Monks Eleigh CEVC Primary School seeks to create a distinctive Christian community where everyone is respected and valued. We strive to provide a safe, happy and healthy environment where all children are able to learn because they are supported and encouraged to achieve their potential.*

### **Collective Worship Policy**

**The aim of our Collective Worship** is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- Worship God
- Reflect on values that are of a mainly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Respond to the worship offered
- Be encouraged to develop a sensitive understanding of a variety of beliefs and practices
- Develop a sense of awe and wonder about the world around them
- Be encouraged to develop a sense of responsibility and community
- Develop an awareness of and concern for the needs of others as well as their own needs
- Develop and affirm shared values and commitment – honesty, respect, tolerance, self-discipline, forgiveness, stewardship, and fairness.
- Respond in a compassionate way to experiences of injustice, cruelty, greed and exploitation
- Provide time to share with others the things they have been doing – their thoughts, ideas and talents.

This school will provide daily collective worship for all pupils apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents. This worship will usually be provided within a daily assembly and will be in accordance with the school's trust deed.

Collective worship, whether in whole school assemblies or class assemblies will:

- Be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- Include a variety of elements at different times
- Involve the pupils
- Give time for individual thought and reflection
- Take into account the family background, age and aptitude of the pupils

A record should be kept of the broad content of the worship. It should reflect the particular time of year where appropriate.

Collective Worship may be led by any member of staff willing to do so, or by visitors acceptable to the school and working within the guidelines.

#### **Visitors Leading Worship:**

- We welcome and value the range of styles of presentation, which visitors bring to collective worship and Assembly times.
- We welcome the links with the wider community, which these opportunities give the school.
- Contact is made with the visiting speaker to welcome them and to share the theme for the week. Speakers from charities that the school supports are encouraged to come and speak about their work

### **Organisation of Collective Worship:**

Monday: Headteacher

Tuesday: Teacher of Kites Class

Wednesday: A visitor from the list in Appendix 1

Thursday: Teacher of Jets Class

Friday: Sharing Assembly. During the Assembly, certificates and awards are given to the children. These may be given for a variety of reasons eg. academic, behaviour, social or sports related.

At least once every half term, we hold a sharing Assembly to which parents and friends are invited. This is led by each of the classes in turn.

On the last day of each term a service is held in St. Peter's Church or the Village Hall, to which the whole community is invited.

### **The Character of the Worship**

The acts of collective worship in the school are planned to give the children a variety of experiences. These experiences will include:

- The telling of appropriate stories (biblical and others)
- Poetry and drama
- Music
- Visiting speakers
- DVDs

The children will be given opportunities to respond to these experiences through:

- Silent reflection
- Spoken prayer
- The singing of songs

The use of prayer may be that of prayers written by the children, traditional prayers or short prayers led by an adult. In addition to silent reflection, we have identified five characteristics, which may be reflected in the choice of prayers or songs:

- Saying thank you
- Saying sorry
- Celebrating
- Thinking of others
- Remembering

In order to create an appropriate atmosphere for worship, a focal point may be created by;

- Displays on the theme
- The use of flowers
- A cross placed on a table
- The lighting of a candle for the time of reflection and prayer
- The use of music / silence as the children enter or leave

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

### **Themes for Collective Worship:**

The themes used are based on the materials available from the 3year cycle prepared by the Gloucester Diocese, entitled 'Values for Life'. The half term's theme is planned by the member of staff responsible for collective worship and the plans are kept in Rockets Class.

Other materials and books are available in the staff room and the Head teacher's office. These include forms of collective worship available from the National Society website. ([www.natsoc.org.uk](http://www.natsoc.org.uk))

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

As soon as it is in place, the school website will have a church link that will be updated regularly.

Dated: February 2010

Agreed by the Head Teacher

and the Foundation Governors

### **Appendix 1.**

List of visitors willing to lead Worship:

Name	Organisation / position	Contact number
Revd Brian Findlay	Rector of St Peter's Church Monks Eleigh Foundation Governor	01449 740244
Mrs Alison Russell	Chair of Governors, Foundation Governor Churchwarden and Elder of Chelsworth Church	01449 740438
Revd Jim Dagleish	Minister of Hadleigh & Monks Eleigh URC	01473 827895
Revd Barbara Stanton	Rector of Bildeston Benefice	01449 744190
John Mills	Local librarian Monks Eleigh resident Member of Hadleigh URC.	01449 741439

### **Appendix 2**

#### **Information for visiting speakers**

*Thank you for coming to lead our worship.*

Here are a few points which we feel may be of help:

- Normally the whole school will be there (Reception to year 4 – ages 4 –9)
- The assembly starts at 10.15 and lasts for 15 minutes
- If you have not received the information, please contact school to find out the theme of worship for that week.
- Let us know if you would like to involve staff or pupils
- Do try to include time for thinking or reflection
- Remember the children are used to a variety of learning styles
- Use a variety of approaches on different occasions; formal and informal; traditional and experimental; active and the passive; biblical and extra-biblical; and a whole range of ways in which the religious community celebrates and challenges the experiences of the wider community of which the school is a part.