



## **Grade Ruan Church of England School Collective Worship Policy 2022-23**

***Inclusive – Invitational – Inspiring***

Grade Ruan C of E School is a community where each person is valued by God. We nurture confidence, delight and discipline in seeking the skills to live life well. This policy is underpinned by our school vision which is rooted in the Biblical teachings of the parable of The Storm.

***“Setting sail on life’s journey with an anchor to keep us safe, sails to let us fly and God to calm the storms along the way.”***

Luke Chapter 8 v22

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

### INTRODUCTION

Grade Ruan School is a Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School serving small village communities and their surroundings on the Lizard peninsular. The school, whilst concentrating mainly on Christian worship and education, aims to widen the children's horizons as far as possible with regard to the faiths and experiences of others. We aim to prepare pupils for life not only in their own communities, but also in the wider world.

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in a daily act of Collective Worship. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

We recognise that in asking our children to worship we have to consider the backgrounds that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of our school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times.

As a Church School, our distinctive Christian Values of **respect, wisdom, aspiration and relationships** are promoted through the experiences we offer to all our pupils and to give them the knowledge, skills and understanding that they require to lead confident and independent lives as well as to encourage individual spirituality. We promote the teaching and understanding of fundamental British values which prepare pupils for life in modern Britain. We teach the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect for and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs and those without faith in order to help our pupils become informed, active and responsible citizens.

The Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging daily Collective Worship. Parents of a pupil at a voluntary school have a right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship if they wish. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending Collective Worship the school must comply. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Headteacher. Teachers may also withdraw from Collective Worship.

### **What is Collective Worship?**

Worship from within a faith tradition has a very specific definition. A school community is not a worshipping community and the law recognises this by requiring “collective” not “corporate” worship. Broadly, worship in school is more appropriately referred to as worth-ship. This might encompass what is offered in a spirit of admiration, celebration and respect to God and/or people of excellence, worthy of honour and by extension to concepts, principles and conduct which are worthy of celebration as examples of the highest achievements of the human spirit.

Worship defined in this way draws on literature, music, art, drama and other sources of inspiration and reflection for pupils and staff whose religious and cultural backgrounds are of any faith or none. In this way Collective Worship is inclusive not exclusive and forms the 'heart-beat' of our school.

## **SPIRITUALITY**

We place spirituality at the heart of worship and define it as a 'special connection'. We use the Salisbury Diocese spirituality progression document to support our children with developing their understanding of spirituality. The motifs of 'Windows, Mirrors and Doors' is threaded through our curriculum with the addition of 'Candles' to reflect the act of coming together in worship.

## **VALUES AND AIMS**

We believe at our school that Collective Worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the values which we place on the development of the whole child, spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Through Collective Worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- Be a daily expression of our school's Christian vision.
- Be inclusive, invitational and inspiring for all pupils, staff and parents and visitors
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- Enable pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- Encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

Worship both reflects and nurtures the vision of our school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular school worship develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

## **OBJECTIVES**

We see school worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives:

- sharing and experiencing differences;
- developing a culture of learning;
- building a sense of group identity;
- learning about fundamental British Values
- 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.

## **Planning and Monitoring**

- Responsibility for collective worship lies with the Head Teacher. All staff use the 'Roots and Fruits' Scheme. The programme is designed to cover a wide range of themes, to complement the R.E. syllabus and to reflect the Christian year. A copy of the rolling programme can be found on the website.
- At Grade Ruan class teachers organise their own programme of class assemblies when we are unable to meet as a whole school, also linked to our values.
- Worship follows a recognisable structure of Gathering, Engaging, Reflecting and Sending and is planned half termly taking account of school activities, festivals and import events.

### **Daily collective worship is provided by the following means:**

- In a typical week at Grade Ruan, each child may take part in four acts of collective worship which includes 'Open the Book' once a week. The children also take part in services held in the Parish Church on alternate Fridays as well as special end of term Services, held in the local Church.
- The children also take part in services held in their local Churches throughout the year such as Christingle.
- In addition there is one session of hymn practice/ musical praise each week.

We believe that creating the right atmosphere is crucial to the quality of the worship. Therefore, the time is not over-dominated by school administration or moralising. We plan the time so that there is a variety in content and methods, allowing opportunity for quiet personal reflection/worship.

### **Visitors**

We welcome visitors to our collective worship. Some visitors are invited to share their experiences, linked to the theme of the collective worship, other visitors present a whole collective worship on a theme requested by the Headteacher.

Visitors should understand that in schools **E** is for **Education** not **Evangelism** and avoid proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause without the prior permission of the headteacher.

## **FORMS OF WORSHIP**

### **A typical act of worship will include many of the following features:**

- The school Worship Team prepare for the school to come together by ringing the school bell, lighting a candle and opening the service. Music begins and ends the service, and children are encouraged to listen and reflect.
- The Worship Team are part of the planning and delivery of the worship on a regular basis.
- Hymns or other suitable songs are sung.
- Stories play an important part: Bible stories, stories from other faiths, of great religious figures, of ordinary people, from the leader's own experience, fables and moral tales, etc. The moral aspect focuses on the positive.
- Poems, pictures, beautiful objects or any suitable visual or aural stimuli.
- Opportunities for children to ask questions or take an active part in the proceedings.
- Topical issues using Picture News.
- At Grade Ruan assemblies are not generally used for administrative announcements or organisational matters, but things which fit naturally into the atmosphere of worship may be included, referred to, celebrated, and prayed about. Prayers are said. Important Christian prayers are used frequently. Children's own prayers are also used, and there are times for silent, private prayer.

### **We choose from a range of methods, including:**

- Led entirely by pupils who are part of the Worship team.
- Pupil's contributions and reflective thoughts
- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Dance/drama
- Prayer/reflection/meditation/songs/hymns/music
- Artefacts/natural materials
- Visual aids/focal points

- Dialogue/creative silence
- Visitors

### **Songs/music**

Songs and music are very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and help unify and uplift the school community. We have a bank of music from which to draw, taken from a variety of cultures and types. We select our songs/music carefully to match the theme.

### **Prayer**

We feel that prayer is a positive way of enabling children to focus their thoughts. Nevertheless, pupils should not be required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe. We have developed various forms of introductions to prayer which gives the children the opportunity to participate if they so desire; e.g., 'And now in a moment of stillness, listen to the words of a well known Christian/ Hindu/ Muslim prayer/poem/reading...' In this way we are able to use prayers from many different traditions.

It is not always necessary to have a prayer and the use of regular moments of silence and reflection provides opportunities for some pupils to respond in a personal way if they so wish.

### **THEMES AND SUBJECT MATTER**

- Bible stories
- Christian teaching
- The particular contributions of the Anglican Church and of other Christian denominations
- Consideration of the lives of leaders of other religions
- Reflection on the mysteries and wonders of the universe, and of man's relationship to the environment
- Looking at our relationships with others, and our responsibilities to them
- Consideration of school issues where appropriate
- Topical themes: local, national or international
- Aspects of our own local community
- Learning about the experiences and achievements of others
- Celebration of achievement, both inside and outside school
- Expressing and sharing sadness, disappointments, etc. when appropriate

It is expected that the development of our vision and values will be reinforced and further enhanced through each of the curriculum areas and the extra-curricular life of the school.

**Governors**

We welcome Governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

**Monitoring, Review and Inspection**

It is the role of the Governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.

The content and brief self-evaluation by the person leading the worship are recorded in a folder, which is kept in the Worship folder.

The Worship Team and teachers seek feedback from the children and staff about collective worship regularly and these are recorded in each classes Worship Reflection Log with photos and comments.

The School will also be inspected through Section 48 SIAMS inspection.

