

**‘Look Up, Aim High, Shine Bright’**

You are the light of the world. Matthew 5:14

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven. Matthew 5:14-18

**Respect**

**Kindness**

**Perseverance**

**Courage**

**Collective Worship Policy**

This policy has been adopted by the Governors in consultation with the Head teacher, Collective Worship subject leader and teaching staff. It was approved by governors on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025 and will be reviewed on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2028.

**Rationale**

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values. As part of the Christian Ethos of this school, our Christian vision is clear and underpins everything we do in school: we see our children and the education we provide as the light in the world, which is why we chose Matthew 5:14 -

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**‘You are the light of the world.’**

**Our School Vision**

To inspire every child to **look up** with hope, **aim high** with ambition, and **shine bright** and fulfill their unique potential.

Our core Christian values are Respect, Kindness, Perseverance and Courage, which permeate throughout the school.

**Respect**

Respect is the cornerstone of our school culture. We encourage our students to treat others with dignity and consideration, both within our school walls and beyond.

‘Do to others as you would have them do to you.’ Matthew 7:12

**Kindness**

Kindness is another essential value that we instil in our students. We believe that acts of kindness can have a profound impact on individuals and communities. By promoting kindness, we create a positive and supportive atmosphere for all.

‘Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.’ John 3:18

**Perseverance**

Perseverance is the ability to bounce back from challenges and setbacks. We equip our students with the tools and strategies they need to overcome adversity and persevere in the face of difficulties.

'I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.' Revelation 2:19

## **Courage**

We want our children at Sherburn CE Primary Academy to be courageous in their thoughts and actions. Throughout the Bible, especially in the Old Testament, God repeatedly commands His people to "be strong and courageous".

'Be strong and courageous, do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.' Joshua 1:9.

This isn't a call to self-reliance, but an assurance that God will be with them, providing the necessary strength. We want to develop courageous children who are confident even when facing life's challenges.

The school celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, by recognising and following the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of collective worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

In Sherburn Church of England Primary School, Collective Worship is planned to,

- Be inspirational and inclusive - engaging to all learners by offering opportunities to share, reflect and talk about the impact it makes on their lives and relationships.
- Ensure all learners develop an understanding of the Christian belief and how to implement its relevance in today's world.
- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared and moral values (Courage, Kindness and Respect) and virtues (Perseverance).
- Develop these shared values and virtues to nurture characters, and contribute to academic progress.
- Offer the opportunity to all learners, of all backgrounds to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, reflection and worship.
- Celebrate and develop an appreciation for British and Worldwide Christian and Anglican worship, traditions, festivals, the liturgical seasons in different ways e.g. through music, stories, drama, prayers etc.
- Help learners to gain an understanding of these practices and cultivate a respect for diversity.
- Regularly include biblical material and Christian teachings which are explored and related to the school's core Christian values.
- Be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, the local and international community.

Collective worship should be invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

## **Legal Requirements**

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and foundation.

### **Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus and handbook. Parents' contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

### **Inclusion and Equal Opportunities**

Collective worship is inclusive. Please refer to Ebor Academy's Trust's SEND policy and Sherburn's Church of England Primary Academy Accessibility Plan.

### **Planning Collective Worship**

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities.

We attempt to mark out this special time by using traditional gatherings and sendings, bringing in key symbolic artefacts and lighting a candle. Participants will be invited to take part in prayer and reflect quietly.

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. Collective Worship follows a four stage structure 'Gathering' 'Engaging' 'Responding' 'Sending'.

### **Our pattern of Collective Worship**

Whole School Worship is held daily and by a variety of staff members including senior leaders and class teachers. They are timetabled throughout the week and follow a specific format -

**Monday** - Mrs Fenwick, a representative from Sherburn's Methodist church leads our worships regularly and works closely with our school community.

**Tuesday** - Roots and Fruits - staff led worship

**Wednesday** - Stories and Poems linked to the term's church value outlined in Roots and Fruits

**Thursday** - Current Affairs or Calendar news, Headteacher led worship

**Friday** - Celebration Worship (parents, carers and families welcome to join).

Our children regularly hold services in the local church, with the whole school community joining in. These services are usually for Harvest, Easter, Nativity, Christmas or Christingle. For these services, pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning, leading and monitoring of Collective worship.

Visitors who have been invited to join us in acts of Collective Worship include parents, governors, church and diocesan advisers.

A number of Christian values help structure the acts of Collective Worship over the year. These are strongly linked to the school's vision and values, but also take into consideration the pattern of the church's year.

The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by the Collective Worship Subject Leader.

### **Visitors**

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on a yearly basis.

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our suggestion boxes and questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis.

Date of validation :.....07.07.2025      Signed.....K.Thompson.....

Chair of Governors

Date of review.....07.07.2028.....      Signed.....

Chair of Governors