

Davenham Church of England Primary School

“Working Together, Playing Together, Serving God and Serving Others”  
*“...encourage one another and build each other up...”*  
**1 Thessalonians 5:11.**

## **POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **OVERVIEW**

Collective worship is at the heart of each school day at Davenham. It provides a valuable opportunity for us to join as a loving Church school family. Worship takes different forms including whole school worship, Songs of Praise and class worship. Worship is extended each week to include parents / carers. This is delivered through our Family Services where families of each class are invited to join in collective worship. Furthermore, regular opportunities to worship in our local church, Saint Wilfrid's, provide opportunities for pupils' families to join in collective worship in the church building. Regular Sunday church services delivered by our pupil led Ethos Group ensure that the impact of collective worship reaches beyond our school building.

### **OBJECTIVES OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

- To provide an opportunity for adults and pupils to worship God.
- To provide opportunities for all stakeholders to join in worship and develop their own spiritual beliefs.
- To explore scripture and events from the Bible.
- To provide opportunities for prayer (different types of prayer including spontaneous prayer), reflection and stillness.
- To provide opportunities to understand the nature of the Trinity.
- To explore Anglican traditions and practice.
- To promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes.
- To explore our own Church school vision and values and other Christian values.
- To enable adults and pupils to consider spiritual, moral and ethical issues.
- To encourage participation, reflection and response.
- To recognise the diversity of the world we live by developing an understanding of how a variety of world religions worship.
- To take part in worship with our local church community.

## OUR VISION AND HOW THIS LINKS TO COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Our Christian vision is:

***“...encourage one another and build each another up...”***  
**1 Thessalonians 5:11.**

We encourage one another to strengthen life both now and in the future.

We value our links with the church and our rich community history. However, we equally celebrate the potential provided by Davenham as a growing, changing community.

As such, our vision is outward looking and can absorb change.

Relationships are fundamental to our Christian vision and associated values.

As a Christian community, we know Christ will return.

We therefore live together just as the Thessalonians did, as people of the day, as people of light.

We work together, we play together, we serve God and we serve others.

Our Christian vision underpins all that we do as a Church school. It is the foundation upon which we work together, we play together, and we learn together. When planning collective worship, our Christian vision reminds us of the importance of community and encouragement.

Collective worship reflects our status as a Church school. It offers adults and pupils a time to be quiet and to reflect on the teachings of Jesus through exploring events in the Bible, our six Christian values and other Christian values. It also offers valuable opportunities to think about the awe and wonder of the world around us along with topical and moral issues. As such, collective worship contributes significantly to the spiritual development of both adults and pupils.

### HOW WE WORSHIP AT DAVENHAM

At Davenham we consider worship to be a special act or occasion, with the purpose of showing reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in a variety of ways. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character,' worship is based on the teachings of Jesus and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our worship in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

## THE THREE I's

Collective worship should always be planned to be inclusive, invitational and inspirational. As a Church school, we recognise that within our school community there will be those who are members of the Christian faith, those who belong to other faiths and those of no faith. In any community, it is vital that all members feel included. Collective worship provides us with a special time where we invite everyone to join in an inclusive way that they feel comfortable with. Worship should inspire adults and pupils to reflect on important questions and themes.

## THEMES AND TYPE OF WORSHIP

Themes for worship are varied and include the traditions of the Anglican Christian faith and mark the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We sometimes teach about other significant religious festivals through special events, such as Diwali Day. At such events we compare the way Christians and other world religions worship or mark significant events. This helps pupils to understand the diversity of the world they live in and encourages mutual respect. However the act of collective worship remains focused on the teachings of the Bible and the Christian faith.

Worship is varied throughout the week and therefore offers a range of opportunities for adults and pupils to worship together as a whole school community, within key stages or as a class.

| Type   | Day                                    | Focus   |
|--|--|---|
| Whole school worship   | Monday                                 | Biblical teachings / school Christian value   |
| Picture News   | Tuesday                                | Exploring topical issues  |
| Songs of Praise  | Wednesday                              | Worship through song  |
| Class Values Based Worship   | Thursday                               | Focused on our whole school Christian value or other Christian Values   |
| Prayer and Reflection Time<br>The Big Question – based on the whole school worship session | Friday                                 | Time for reflection and prayer<br><br>Key Stage Two pupils complete Reflection Books (these can also be completed at any time of the week as a personal record) |
| Family Service   | Friday once a term<br>*on a rota basis | Class worship where parents / carers are invited to join in an act of collective worship  |

## ANGLICAN TRADITIONS

We follow several Anglican traditions. These include:

- A call to worship – call and response as we gather.
- The lighting of three candles to support understanding of the Trinity.
- The use of liturgical colours for worship cloths
- The use of set prayers including the Lord's Prayer and the Grace.

## WORSHIP TABLE AND WORSHIP TRAYS

In the hall there is a worship table. This is covered in a coloured cloth to match the liturgical season. There are several items on the table which link to our Christian vision. These are placed on the table as we say our Call to Worship together. The same items can be found on the worship trays in classrooms. This provides a sense of commonality and consistency for the school community.

| ITEM                              | MEANING   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Green, purple, white or red cloth | Links to the liturgical season  |
| Globe                             | Represents the world God created and that we are thinking about in collective worship.  |
| Cross                             | Jesus gave his life for us.   |
| Bead                              | Represents each member of the school community  |
| Lego pieces                       | Each Lego piece represents a class in school. Joined together they represent our school community. The bricks link directly to the vision of building one another up. |
| Lighthouse                        | Jesus is like a lighthouse for Christians – guiding them and showing them the way when things are difficult   |
| 3 wick candle                     | The Trinity   |

## ADULT WORSHIP LEADERS

Worship is conducted by the headteacher, other staff members, local clergy and / or representatives of local religious groups.

## ETHOS GROUP PUPIL LED WORSHIP AND PRAYER GROUP (including termly Sunday services in church)

We believe that pupil involvement in collective worship is important because it can help them to understand how worship can support their own personal and spiritual development.

The Ethos Group is responsible for leading acts of worship. Pupils from the Ethos Group plan, lead and evaluate worship. Our Ethos Group not only lead worship and

prayer groups in school but also regular church services. These church services link to our Christian values. They strengthen our relationship with and links to our local church community.

We hold a weekly Prayer Group to which any pupil is welcome to attend.

## **WORSHIP SETTINGS**

Worship takes place in a variety of settings including the hall, the classroom, our outdoor Jubilee chapel, our outdoor Spiritual Garden and our local church. All classrooms have Reflection Areas which link to our whole school Christian Value. Stations around school are dedicated to each of our six Christian values which are friendship, thankfulness, trust, forgiveness, compassion and koinonia.

## **WIDER WORSHIP WITH OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND OUR LOCAL CHURCH COMMUNITY**

Weekly Family Services invite parents / carers to join in our collective worship at school.

We also hold several key services in our local church.

| <b>Month</b>                 | <b>Event</b>  | <b>Parents / carers</b>        |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| September                    | Education Sunday<br>We welcome new families to the Davenham family. Every new pupil is presented with a children's Bible.<br>The Headteacher and Rector jointly plan and deliver this service | Reception and all new families |
| October                      | Harvest Festival<br><br>Donations are received for the Mid Cheshire Food Bank.  | Year 3 and 4                   |
| December                     | Christingle<br><br>We raise money at this event for the Children's Society.   | Year 5 and 6                   |
| March                        | Our Big Family Service<br><br>This links to Mothering Sunday. Pupils learn about the history of Mothering Sunday.   | Reception                      |
| March / April                | Easter  | Year 1 and 2                   |
| July                         | Leavers Service   | Year 6                         |
| July<br>Chester<br>Cathedral | Leavers service for all Church schools in the diocese.  | Year 6                         |

Governors' attendance at our worship is always welcome.

## **SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT (see SMSC Policy)**

The Church of England's vision for education is for 'Life in all its fulness' John 10:10. This recognises the importance of educating the whole child. The revised SIAMS schedule 2023, references spirituality in religious education (RE), collective worship and the curriculum.

As a Church school, we place particular emphasis on spiritual development. We believe that it has an important role to play in supporting personal development and wellbeing for everyone in our school community. Spirituality is personal to individuals. It is not the same as religious belief or faith.

Spirituality provides opportunities to

- be self-aware.
- be reflective.
- question ideas.
- engage with others' ideas and thoughts.
- be empathetic.
- appreciate and celebrate the awe and wonder of the natural world.
- develop resilience.
- reflect on personal beliefs and viewpoints.
- enjoy moments of stillness and reflection
- be invited to engage in prayer and reflection.
- develop an understanding of the transcendent nature of life.
- explore life's big questions.

The language of spirituality begins from the Christian understanding that everyone is a valued creation, individually and uniquely made by God, like pots made by a potter (Isaiah 64:8). Yet in life things happen that impact on the physical 'pot' of life and create cracks that provide a glimpse of 'something' beyond the tangible. Christians would view this as an opportunity to relate to the Trinitarian Creator God.

Kintsugi, the Japanese art of mending broken ceramics with gold, makes something broken into something differently beautiful and even more valuable. Using this metaphor, the ouchis, wows, nows and vows of life offer the possibility of becoming cracks that are filled with gold, adding significance and value to life.

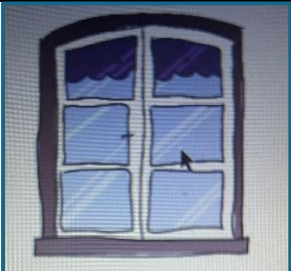
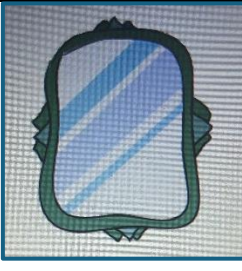
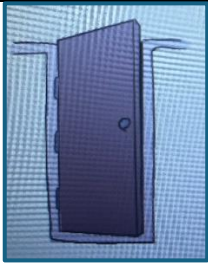


Cracks may happen when something challenging happens and threatens the comforts of everyday – the 'ows' of life.

Cracks may be caused when something so good and breath-taking happens that the pot expands causing cracks – the 'wows' of life.

Cracks can also occur in the stillness and ordinariness of everyday – the 'nows' of life, when a moment of stillness, a pause or prayer can create a crack in the normal, physical every day.

**Through collective worship we use the windows, mirrors and doors symbols to support spiritual development.**

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |
| <p>The window symbol reminds pupils how special the world around them is. It encourages them to think about the awe and wonder of the world.</p> <p>Cracks may happen when something challenging happens and threatens the comforts of everyday – the 'ows' of life.</p> <p>Cracks may be caused when something so good and breath-taking happens that the pot expands causing cracks – the 'wows' of life.</p> | <p>The mirror symbol encourages pupils to think about themselves and to reflect. The mirror is concerned with <b>how</b> individuals think and feel about what is happening <b>now</b>.</p> <p>Cracks can occur in the stillness and ordinariness of everyday – the 'nows' of life, when a moment of stillness, a pause or prayer can create a crack in the normal, physical every day.</p> | <p>The door focuses on how pupils can respond to what they believe. They are encouraged to think about how they can make a difference by responding to what they have. These are the <b>vow</b> moments. (impact)</p> |
| <p>What does this learning mean as I think about my understanding of myself?</p>  | <p>What does this learning look like from the perspective of our vision?</p>  | <p>Has there been a change in attitude, behaviour or thinking?</p>  |

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p>What does this learning mean for my understanding of others?</p> <p>What does this learning mean for my understanding of God?</p> <p>What does this learning mean for our school community, with our vision?</p> <p>What does this learning mean for the wider world?</p> | <p>What difference does this learning make in helping us achieve our vision?</p> | <p>What questions has this learning made me ask and answer?</p> <p>What actions might this learning encourage me to take?</p> |
|--|--|---|

## **MONITORING AND IMPACT ON SPIRITUAL FLOURISHING**

We seek the views of different members of our school community by monitoring worship in several ways. These include:

- Formal and informal observations
- Pupil voice
- Monitoring and evaluation by members of the governing body
- Key Stage Two Reflection Books
- Parent / carer feedback of Family Service / church services

Changes may be made to collective worship as a result of monitoring and/ or self-evaluation.

## **FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT**

Each week, we reflect the achievements of our pupils through our Fruits of the Spirit Awards, which recognise Christian Values. This is our only whole school reward system and focuses solely on the way pupils behave rather than on academic achievements.

## **CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Training for staff is delivered in house, by the rector or by attendance at training courses which may be delivered by the diocese or other providers.

## **ENTITLEMENT AND WITHDRAWAL FROM WORSHIP**

All pupils, whatever their race, gender, faith, age or ability are included in collective worship. Any parent / carer can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and we will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the day. Parents / carers do not have to explain or give reasons



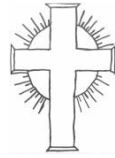
for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

## **OUTCOMES**

Collective worship aims to equip adults and pupils with the ability to worship, to question and to reason and to reflect, enabling them to develop their own value system, to make responsible, reasoned decisions on spiritual and moral matters, and to adopt a sensitive, tolerant view of beliefs differing from their own.

## **EQUALITY STATEMENT**

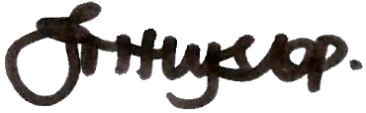

*Davenham Primary School is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all children, staff, parents, carers and visitors irrespective of their race, gender, gender identity, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marital status, age or pregnancy and maternity. We tackle discrimination through the positive promotion of equality, by valuing diversity, challenging bullying and stereotypes and by creating an inclusive environment which champions fairness and respect for all.*



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**POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

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|--|--|----------------------|
| <b>Effective Date</b>  |  | <b>March 2024</b>    |
| <b>Review</b>  |  | <b>Every 2 years</b> |
| <b>Person Responsible</b>  |  | <b>Joanne Hyslop</b> |
| <b>Signed Headteacher</b>  | <b>Signed Chair of Governors</b>   | <b>Date Ratified</b> |
|  |  | 18 March 2024        |
| Joanne Hyslop  | Martin Mewies  |                      |