Swanton Morley VC Primary School
"Love your neighbour as yourself."

Policy Agreed	February 2025
Signed	R Robinson

Collective Worship Policy

At Swanton Morley VC Primary School there is a daily act of collective worship, usually within an assembly. This is partly to comply with the 1988 Education Act, but chiefly because as a school we believe that daily worship is a valuable and important part of the school day. We are careful to ensure that assembly (i.e. notices, awarding of certificates) is separated from an act of worship. It is important to show the links but not to confuse the two.

We provide collective worship because it maintains a vital contribution to the everyday life of the school and to personal, social, cultural and spiritual development of every child.

The aims and purpose of our collective worship are for every chid:

- To discover their individual self-worth;
- Provide an experience of worship that will allow participants to reflect on the presence and peace of God;
- Introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church each year;
- Explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to well-known Christian prayers;
- To hear about the words, beliefs and experiences of others, including Jesus Christ, and to reflect on what they mean for them;
- To consider important moral and spiritual issues;
- To enjoy a space and time of quiet and peace;
- To have an opportunity to commune with each other and with God;
- To feel part of the school community, its values and ethos;
- To participate in worship in a variety of ways children find helpful, including through music, literature, art and drama;
- Foster a concern for others within the school and the wider world;
- An opportunity to calmly reflect on their contribution to home, school and community life and how it could be positively enhanced;
- To share, explore, question, reflect on, celebrate and respond to a range of experiences such as the mystery of our world, foster concern for others in the wider world and appreciate our responsibility for it.

Worship takes account of the Church year, the Bible as a source book and the Church of England's commitment to ecumenism and dialogue with other faiths. Issues such as personal relationships, bullying, ambitions, and self-awareness are part of our planned worship.

Equally, our collective worship is responsive to needs and issues which occur in the news and arise in the school and community. We also have assemblies which relate to special times of the year, including festivals in the Christian calendar. Most acts of worship are wholly Christian in character. The school recognises religious diversity and is sensitive to the differences between faiths. Worship should be about sharing not about conflict. Occasionally faiths other than Christianity are explored and celebrated in collective worship.

In collective worship a priority is to recognise success in a variety of fields and this contributes to our celebration of worth and worthiness and of all that is right and good.

Although parents can request permission for their children to be removed from attending collective worship, we firmly believe that our acts of worship and assemblies are a positive influence on the development of all children and are a major contribution to the social, spiritual, moral and cultural health of the school. Parents should discuss the issue with the headteacher in the first instance.

Collective worship if led by staff as a timetabled occurrence. All staff are welcome to lead collective worship but are not obliged to do so. Local clergy or representatives of local religious groups also lead acts of worship at the school on a regular basis. In a voluntary controlled school it is the role of the Governing Body to determine the form of the act of worship.