SOUTHWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

1. **Rationale**

The School Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school's aims and ethos. At Southwick School, our vision is that:

T*hrough a **loving** Christian fellowship, our children **learn** all of the values, skills and knowledge they need so that they can **grow** into positive and active members of the community in which they live.*

This theological underpinning of this is:

"Do everything in love" Corinthians 16:14

'To love' is at the heart of what it means to be a Christian. Jesus preached that to love God and others are the greatest commands. The call to live a life marked by love is a consistent message found throughout the bible. When the apostle Paul wrote to the church of Corinth, he instructed them to do everything in love.

The policy will demonstrate the partnership between the conduct and content of school worship and the ethos of the whole school based on Christian values of respect, forgiveness, friendship, service, responsibility and compassion.

At Southwick we consider collective worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the schools distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well being of all learners.

Therefore Collective Worship is planned:

- to be invitational – people of all backgrounds and faiths are welcome;
- to be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school;
- to regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the schools core Christian values ;
- to have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity ;
- to help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide;
- to challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection Stillness;
- to contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to";
- to provide an opportunity to Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

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

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at Southwick School include opportunities for:

- spiritual development;
- the whole community to celebrate;
- sharing and experiencing differences;
- developing a culture of learning;
- building a sense of group identity;
- 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.

2. 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 schools Trust Deed and foundation.

The School meets this requirement and is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship.

It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents or teachers 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.

3. Planning a Collective Worship programme

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 lighting a candle and asking children to reflect quietly.

We also make 'space for the spirit' by using 'Diaries of Reflection' in some class worship times. These also offer specific opportunities for reverence or veneration according to children's own beliefs and traditions.

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. We encourage a 4 stage structure of planning including 'Gathering' 'engaging' 'responding' 'sending'. There should also be space for evaluation.

A group meets once a term led by the worship co-ordinator. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last terms acts of collective worship and to discuss themes for the next term.

The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the Schools Council/Ethos committee. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning leading and monitoring of Collective worship.

Bob Sparkes, one of the schools governors has a role monitoring collective worship through membership of the ethos committee at the school.

There are a number of resources available to form the basis of collective worship planning. These include 'Values for Life', 'Roots and Fruits' and Festival Matters.

The programme of acts of collective worship is coordinated by the head teacher

4. Our pattern of Collective Worship

Day	Who?
Monday	Whole school
Tuesday	Key stage
Wednesday	Class
Thursday	Whole school (singing)
Friday	Whole school (celebration)

Class Teacher-led Reflections, e.g. Diaries of Reflection, Talking with God
Each week pupils meet in their classes for this act of worship. Pupils reflect on statements, thoughts or ideas, provided or approved by teachers. Pupils may also contribute ideas for reflection. A response may be made in diary form. Subject to usual disclosure procedures these responses are confidential between the pupils and his/her tutor. Pupils who believe in God are invited to reflect that, through these thoughts, God may be helping them to discover the most important directions and values for their lives.

Whole School Collective Worship
The whole school gathers three times a week for collective worship, in which achievements of pupils at the school may be celebrated. Staff and pupils may contribute music, drama and dance. Parents may be invited. This worship provides opportunities for spiritual development.

All acts of worship follow themes that are aligned to the schools values but include a recognition of the church's year and make space for other national events.

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.

Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship
All staff, Fr Oliver Learmont and Bob Sparkes and Cathy are involved on a regular basis with the worship programme. Pupils from Year 6 write our weekly prayer. Each term a class takes responsibility for leading one whole school act of collective worship.

Collective Worship at Southwick

Collective Worship is one of the key ways in which we help the children flourish, both spiritually and personally. Through a loving Christian fellowship, our children learn all of the values, skills and knowledge they need so that they can grow into positive and active members of the community in which they live. 'To love' is at the heart of what it means to be a Christian. Jesus preached that to love God and others are the greatest commands. The call to live a life marked by love is a consistent message found throughout the bible. When the apostle Paul wrote to the church of Corinth, he instructed them to do everything in love. Therefore, as a school, love and compassion for the self, others and God's world are at the centre of all we do. Our 6 core values (with love as the overarching theme) give us a structure on which to plan our Collective Worship. Each value is one way in which we can show our and God's love for ourselves, each other and the world.

Collective Worship takes place 5 times a week.

Day	Who/Where/What?	Description
M	**Whole school** in the hall. Led by Mr Cook and once a term by Bob and Cathy from the Baptist Church or Father Oliver from Southwick Church. One of these will be led by a class in the hall each term.	Each term we study one value. Over an average term of 6 weeks, the value is introduced and then explored further over the term. Generally, we begin with a bible story – this forms the basis for the following sessions. We then look at this value and the lessons from the story from different perspectives, beginning with ourselves then branching out to others, the community and then the world. During this period we will also link in key awareness dates and important dates in the Christian calendar. Towards the end of the term, we loop back to the original bible story and then introduce another linked to it and what we have learned. In the final week a class will lead Collective Worship based on what they have learned.

		Each week a pair of Year 6 children write and lead prayers.
T	**Key Stage 1/2** alternating with class based Collective Worship. In the hall/classroom – led by teachers.	Our key stage/class based Collective Worship sessions are intended to allow the children to learn more about a value at even more age specific level. Teachers follow on from Monday's session.
W	**Talking with God.** Class based Collective Worship, led by teachers.	Talking with God is a more discussion based version of Collective Worship. The aim is to allow the children time to discuss and reflect on Monday and Tuesday's sessions in a way that is more personal to them. Teachers record discussions in floor books and these are used to prompt future discussion. Were appropriate, they will discuss 'big questions' related to the value, perhaps looking at current issues that they face personally, as a class or even world events.
Th	**Singing Collective Worship** in the hall. Led by Mrs Forrest and Mrs Woodford.	Ephesians 5:19 says, "Singing has such a unique way of bringing your heart, soul, mind, and strength together to focus entirely and completely on God." Each song we teach the children is chosen especially to match the value that we have been learning about or to celebrate events in the Christian calendar.
F	**Celebration Collective Worship** led by SLT.	In our final collective worship of the week we celebrate those children that have shown love for each other and God's world by living our Christian values throughout the week.