

**KETTLESHULME ST JAMES**  
**CE (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**COLLECTIVE**  
**WORSHIP**  
**POLICY**

**AUTUMN 2024**  
**Review Date – Summer 2027**  
**Non-Statutory Policy – Teaching and**  
**Learning Committee**

## Introduction

At Kettleshulme St James Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. It is a time where we come together to reflect on our choices, relationships and behaviours, talk with God and celebrate our achievements together. The worship of the school is invitational, inclusive, inspiring; ensuring we welcome and promote the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school.

Worship helps us to:

- praise and give thanks to God
- reflect on the meaning and purpose of Christian life
- focus on our Christian Values and Christian character
- develop meditation and thought through stillness and reflection
- learn and reflect on the life of Jesus and of the people of the Bible
- explore religious ideas and the big questions of life
- celebrate festivals and national events
- learn from the experiences of others
- develop community spiritual awareness, promote a common ethos, shared values and reinforce positive attitudes and tolerance of others
- come together to worship as a school family
- develop our motivation and enthusiasm to make the world around us better and help those in need.

Our worship table and worship wall is a reminder of our strong Christian association. A candle is used as a point of focus in assembly, alongside music and images. We light the candle to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world,

Links between the churches in our Parish (Holy Trinity and Taxal St James) and our school are long established. Services usually take place in church for Christmas and Easter. These services bring parents and children together with the community. Church representatives are welcomed to collective worship in school every week.

## OUR VISION - 'A loving branch from which to soar'

With Christian values at our core, we nurture a love of learning and inspire everyone to soar in their own way. Within our School Family we nurture our core Christian values of Hard work, Empowerment, Acceptance, Thankfulness, 'HEART'. These values are integral to our school. We live them on a daily basis and celebrate their demonstration. Our school HEART and Ethos Ambassadors help to maintain awareness of our values and the importance of HEART. Our values are grounded in the bible passages; 'The Good Shepherd' and 'The Mustard Seed'.

## Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

## Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday	School-led worship focusing on our Christian Value for the half term.
Tuesday	Class worship – with a focus on global, British values, Picture News or current affairs
Wednesday	Joyful praise through singing
Thursday	Worship led by a member of the church
Friday	Celebration worship

Our Reverend aims to lead a worship once a half term.

Each class take part in our Harvest, Christmas and Easter worships once during the school year when parents, relatives and friends are invited to join us.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals, such as Open the Book, are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship.

Planning for worship is based first of all on the Christian Calendar and then secondly the global calendar. Particular events are programmed for each term and a thematic approach is used. A wide range of resources are available for the preparation of themes and a variety of formats is used. Each act of worship includes a song, a story/poem/factual account/discussion with the children and a prayer. Music is used to introduce and end the worship.

Children are encouraged and invited to take an active part in all **collective worship** eg: lighting the candle, sharing a reflection, leading the prayers, selecting music, leading responses, delivering information, important messages to other pupils, talking about life experiences, reading aloud, asking and responding to questions raised.

## Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said in each class.

## Other Faiths

Worship reflects Christian beliefs and values, as well as respecting other faith and culture, showing respect, tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. Welcoming those of Christian faith, respecting those of other faiths and encouraging all to explore faith.

## **Equal Opportunities and special needs issues**

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

- *Children may be withdrawn from R.E. lessons and collective worship at the wish of their parents. The Headteacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.*