



# Reeth Community Primary School and Gunnerside Methodist (VC) Primary School Federation

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## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

This policy was approved: Spring 2016

It will be reviewed: Spring 2019

Reeth is a Community School and Gunnerside is a Methodist Controlled School where Christian Ethos and values are central to the life of the school communities.

### Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide an inspiring and supportive environment in which our pupils thrive, academically, personally and physically.

### Our Aims

To provide high quality education that enables all pupils to reach their full potential

To inspire a love for learning

To support pupils to become confident, independent, and well-rounded people ready for the next step of education and for life

To develop pupil's understanding of right and wrong, respect for others, sense of personal responsibility, and politeness

To provide opportunities for pupils to explore and develop beliefs and values, including those of the Methodist Church and of Britain

To work together - staff, pupils, parents and the wider community - to achieve shared goals

### Aims of Collective Worship

To enable pupils to engage with worship, at an age-appropriate level, as both participants and leaders

To enable pupils to explore and respond to a variety of forms of worship, enabling those pupils with a religious commitment to deepen their experience of worship, and to allow those without a religious commitment to begin to appreciate what worship means for others. There is no compulsion for children to participate in prayer or hymns which they cannot or do not subscribe to.

To enable pupils to approach the threshold of worship by fostering in them an attitude characterised by feelings such as humility, awe, wonder, appreciation, thankfulness, respect, reverence and elation

To enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues and the many questions which relate to life

To acknowledge the things which have meaning, value and purpose for the pupils as individuals, as well as for the school and the wider community

To develop and strengthen the sense of community within and beyond the school

To celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to individual pupils within school, to the school as a whole, or to the wider community

To acknowledge and respect difference and diversity

To explore traditions from Christianity and other world faiths as appropriate

### Our Practice

Collective Worship is varied, challenging, interesting and relevant to the needs and experiences of pupils. When planning Collective Worship, use is made of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education document 'Guidance to schools on Collective Worship.' The Christian Values of the Methodist Church are used as a framework for assembly themes, with either one or two values being the focus each half term. Sessions are planned so that the key events in the life of the church may be explored. The Headteacher plans the themes for each term and makes these available for all staff and visitors to follow. Where appropriate, SEAL themes and key dates from other faiths will also be incorporated.

Collective Worship may be led by school staff, pupils, governors, visitors or faith leaders from the Methodist or other churches. It may take place in class, in the school hall at Reeth, outdoors or in Church. Pupils and staff regularly evaluate collective worship, impacting on the development of its effectiveness over time.

When leading Collective Worship, staff should consider the following elements:

- Giving time for stillness and reflection, and the exploration of inner thoughts and feelings linked to the half-termly values and the weekly theme
- Providing opportunities for pupils to share what is important to them
- Celebrating what is worthwhile in pupils' own lives and in the context of the school, the local area and the wider community of modern Britain
- Creating an atmosphere conducive to a sense of peace and tranquility
- Providing opportunities for pupils to use all their senses
- Taking account of the age, aptitude and family background of the pupils
- Fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect
- Being pupil centred and beginning from pupils' experiences
- Providing opportunities to develop the imagination
- Using a range of activities such as singing, dancing, drama, prayer
- Providing a special time separate from ordinary school activities

All pupils on roll at Gunnerside attend the services at Gunnerside Chapel. Some of the services are also attended by all of KS2, to give opportunity for pupils on roll at Reeth to experience the Methodist Church.

We hold a Celebration Assembly every Friday where academic, community and personal achievements are celebrated.

### Parental rights

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from all or part of the programme of collective worship. Parents do not need to explain their reasons for this, although they are encouraged to discuss it with the Headteacher. The school remains responsible for the supervision of children withdrawn from collective worship unless the child is taking part in collective worship elsewhere.