



Mission Statement
A Caring Christian Family Where We Grow Together

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Effective Date: September 2019

Review Date: September 2022 Biennial

Review Date	Signed Head Teacher	Signed Director RCSAT
01/09/2019	<i>J L Jabel</i>	<i>P. Bantock</i>
30/09/2020	<i>de m Badger</i>	<i>P. Bantock</i>

Persons Responsible for Policy:	Executive Headteacher
Approval Date	01/04/2017
Signed:	Director RCSAT
Signed:	Executive Headteacher RCSAT



1. Policy Statement

- 1.1. Our Vision Governors and school staff worked together to agree a vision for The Rural Church Schools Academy Trust (RCSAT) which was best represented as:

'A Caring Christian Family where we grow together'

Let your Light Shine. (Matthew 5 : 16)

RCSAT schools embrace Christian values and ensure all children are ready for their next steps.

- 1.2. **RCSAT schools aim to create an enjoyable, inclusive, safe and nurturing environment that allows all children to develop spiritually, morally and socially.** – *every child is a child of God, made to contribute to our world.*
- 1.3. **RCSAT schools aim to create an inspiring environment, which encourages enthusiasm for lifelong learning and establishes an expectation of high standards** – *knowing the way, showing the way and going the way.*
- 1.4. As Rights Respecting Schools, RCSAT upholds the articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. These articles underpin the Religious Education Policy:
- 1.4.1. Article 29 - (goals of education) Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.
Aiming to encourage caring, sensitive and inclusive attitudes where individuals feel secure, valued and respected by others. – *like Jesus showed us through his teachings*
- 1.4.2. Article 12 – Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.
Aiming to provide a broad and connected curriculum which challenges and develops the potential of each child – *as Jesus needed his disciples to support and guide, so we look to others with more knowledge*
- 1.4.3. Article 28: Every child has the right to an education.
Aiming to develop a positive relationship between home, school and our wider community-as a family – *as brothers and sisters.*
- 1.4.4. Article 3 - (best interests of the child) The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all things that affect children.

2. Rationale

- 2.1. RCSAT's Trust Deed and school Mission Statement inform the policy and practice of collective worship at RCSAT.
- 2.2. School worship is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian foundation values and ethos of the school.
- 2.3. Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and will reflect the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. This will include belief in God the source of all being and life, belief in Jesus who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection and belief in the Holy Spirit who makes the presence of Jesus known in the world.

3. Aims

- 3.1. Collective worship takes place in RCSAT schools, aiming to:
- 3.1.1. Provide an experience of worship that will allow children to respond to the presence, power and peace of God.
- 3.1.2. Introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year.
- 3.1.3. Explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to some well-known Christian prayers, e.g. Lord's Prayer.
- 3.1.4. Strengthen and support the school community giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school.
- 3.1.5. Celebrate the gifts that each child brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God.

- 3.1.6. Encourage children to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around them.
- 3.1.7. Foster a concern for others within the school and wider world.
- 3.1.8. Foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.

4. **Legal Framework**

- 4.1. There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils which takes account of their age and aptitude. (Education Reform Act 1988).
- 4.2. Parents have the right to withdraw pupils from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these pupils.
- 4.3. As RCSAT are church schools, worship is central to its life and work and is regarded as a very important part of each pupil's education.

5. **Elements of Worship**

- 5.1. The three elements of worship: affirmation, celebration and response are included in our daily acts of worship:
 - 5.1.1. Affirmation provides the pupils with the opportunity to affirm some value of ultimate worth, such as the importance of each person, which for Christians would be expressed in the image of God.
 - 5.1.2. The act of celebration is designed to mark what is affirmed through music, drama, reading, dance or acknowledgement of effort or achievement.
 - 5.1.3. Response is encouraged either collectively or individually through prayer or silent reflection.

6. **The Daily Act of Worship**

- 6.1. Worship is held every day and lasts twenty minutes.
- 6.2. Every week, five whole school acts of worship are held, emphasising the unity of the school. The local Church of England vicar leads one of the weekly acts of worship, as do the Ethos team,;others are led by the Principal and other members of staff.
- 6.3. Pupils are also encouraged to lead all or part of the worship or may contribute with readings or prayers.
- 6.4. Worship is held in the hall or Village Hall, where there is a wooden cross as a focal point and candles are lit to represent the Trinity at the start of each worship.
- 6.5. Music is often played as pupils enter and leave the hall to encourage an atmosphere of reflection.
- 6.6. The Lord's Prayer is recited regularly, along with the school prayer.
- 6.7. A wide range of approaches are used in worship, including drama, discussion, reflection, reading, singing and prayer.
- 6.8. Pupils also attend three services in Church each year: Carol service, Harvest Festival, Easter service and/or an end of year celebration worship. These are led by the local vicar and pupils.

7. **Learning Themes**

- 7.1. RCSAT schools have adopted Christian values that form the basis of worship and of wider school life.
- 7.2. Each value is looked at for a term and all worship is planned around this value, as well as being promoted throughout the school.
- 7.3. Care is taken to ensure that understanding of each value is rooted in the Bible and the example of Jesus.
- 7.4. Significant dates in the Christian year are added in, as are days of particular importance such as Remembrance Day.
- 7.5. Schools are also able to respond to local, national or world events (or a need from the pupils), that merit reflection and prayers.
- 7.6. A range of resources are available to all staff.

8. Role of RE Lead

- 8.1. The RE Lead is responsible for supporting staff in their planning of worship where necessary.
- 8.2. The RE Lead is also responsible for organising and replenishing resources and for monitoring all aspects of worship within the school along with members of RCSAT Board.

9. Evaluation of Worship

- 9.1. The RE lead monitors whole school worship throughout the year, as do the Principal, governors and directors.
- 9.2. From time to time parents and pupils are asked for their opinions through a questionnaire and in discussion groups. Their views are taken into account in future planning of worship.

10. Implementation

- 10.1. The RCSAT Governing Body has delegated the responsibility for the implementation of this policy to the Principals and RE leads across the Trust.

11. Review

- 11.1. This policy will be reviewed annually.