

Policy reviewed : May 20

To be reviewed: May 2022

Collective Worship Policy

Aims and Objectives

Collective Worship aims to

- Give expression to, reaffirm and practise the values of the school community and to reinforce positive attitudes
- Allow reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance including festivals
- Contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils
- Foster and enable concern for the needs of others - a recognition of the vulnerability of self and others
- Help pupils to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- Enable children to explore their own beliefs and those of others

Because we aim for acts of worship to be inclusive of all pupils there is an expectation that all pupils will be present. Careful planning and preparation ensure that there are clear learning intentions for all pupils.

Collective worship is first and foremost for the educational benefit of all pupils. It is a shared activity that allows for a variety of responses, and provides an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on stimuli that allow the human spirit to respond with integrity. The school is committed to respect the integrity of the religious communities from which the children come.

The school will also offer the opportunity to explore, reflect upon and respond to the mystery and meaning of the Christian faith.

In accordance with the legal requirements (School Standards and Framework Act 1998) an act of collective worship, taking account of the age, aptitude and background of the pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents. The school expects that withdrawal will only be made following discussions with the head teacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. In the event of parental withdrawal the school will provide suitable supervision for children concerned.

The Organisation of our Collective Worship

We believe that collective worship has a vitally important part to play in the life of the school. Worship may be led by staff, local clergy, visitors and also involves the children themselves.

We can reassure parents however that our school exerts no pressure on children to become worshipping Christians or to take part in any activity which will compromise their own faith or background. The spiritual, social and moral welfare of the children whatever their background is of prime concern to us as a school. However Christian values are built into our ethos and teaching and are reflected in the cycle of themes on which our acts of worship are based.

The Nature of Collective Worship at our school

As a school community we are committed to ensuring that the worship opportunities offered to children pay due regard to their family background, their ages, their aptitudes and their interests. We try to ensure that the resources and materials that we use are appropriate to the families whom we serve.

We follow the principles as set out below:

- Assemblies should be inclusive
- Assemblies should be educational with curricular links
- Assemblies should contribute to the religious education of all pupils
- Whenever possible, assemblies should have a sense of occasion
- Assemblies should be relevant to the needs of the children

Equal Opportunities

Our school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing our common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes and values. It is about affirming the equality of each individual.

Special Educational Needs

As a school we are committed to ensuring that every child will derive some benefit from collective worship, whatever their academic ability. Every effort is made therefore to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests.

Planning The Headteacher/ RE subject leader plans the Value and collective worship focus for the term which is broken down into weeks with plans and outlines for the worship that will take place.

In planning worship regard is given to:

- Observing the cycle of the Christian year and selecting appropriate themes such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter
- Reflecting the Anglican heritage by using the Bible as a source book and reflecting upon Christian symbols such as the cross, bread and wine.
- Organising special services from time to time such as the Leavers' Service

- Linking with the broad dimensions of the curriculum, using Values for Life resource materials
- Using music and art as aural and visual stimuli

Leading Collective Worship

In accordance with the law the school provides an act of worship each day. Each week these stories or issues are grouped around a theme based on the 'Values for Life' and the selected Values for our school during that year. Stories are sometimes from the Bible, but may also be drawn from other faiths. Other elements of worship may include hymns and prayers. On one day a week we have a music assembly and on a Friday the collective worship is a "celebration assembly" where children from the two key stages are given the opportunity to celebrate achievements and demonstrate. Worship assemblies are sometimes whole school, key stage or class specific. Most assemblies take place in the school hall. Special services for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the Leavers' service may take place in the church.

The children are represented through the Head Boys and Girls who support the whole school collective worship. They help to lead an assembly each term.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Evaluation strategies currently used by staff and pupils for assessing the impact of collective worship include:

- Observation of children's attentiveness and level of interest shown during collective worship
- Classroom feedback from pupils
- Feedback from staff
- Comments made by parents and visitors
- Observation of children's general behaviour in and around the school and towards each other
- Discussion at staff meetings

Resources

Resources such as books, stories, videos etc are detailed in the termly assembly plan. The Headteacher is available to give advice and support to staff and visitors where the planning and delivery of collective worship is concerned.

Alison Lowe
Headteacher