



Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed and agreed: February 2019

Introduction

The Education Reform Act (ERA) requires all pupils registered in maintained schools to attend a daily act of collective worship (ERA 6 (1)). In classes where children are not predominantly of statutory school age, children will be gradually integrated into whole school collective worship during their first term. They will have daily opportunities for circle time and assemblies within their own classes/year group.

The act of collective worship in this Church of England Aided School will reflect Anglican beliefs, practices and values in accordance with the practice observed in the school since its foundation. The material used will be drawn predominantly from Christian sources but reference will be made to the beliefs and practices of other faith communities so that the children can grow in tolerance and understanding of these faiths and cultures.

Parents do have a right to withdraw their child/ren from collective worship, although it is assumed that, as a Church School, parents have understood and accepted the importance of their children's involvement in this aspect of school life.

Aims

- To celebrate and affirm personal worth and religious belief;
- To explain and celebrate the major festivals in the Church calendar;
- To offer the opportunity for spiritual awareness and growth and use silence as a means to encourage reflection, contemplation and prayer and to introduce the children to some formal elements of Christian worship, e.g. The Lords Prayer;
- To provide our children with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of worship and become more aware of their own beliefs and those of others;
- To celebrate difference and diversity;
- To attempt to create feelings of awe, wonder and appreciation, gratitude and respect;
- To celebrate individual achievement, school achievement and wider community.

Planning and Co-ordination

The overview for Collective Worship is planned by the Collective Worship Leader in liaison with the Church Reverend. Firm links are made between the church and the school and key dates in the Christian calendar, including some Saints Days, are included in the overview. The materials are based on the 'Values for Life' scheme and a new value is introduced each term.

Organisation

Whole school collective worship will usually take place on five days of the week.

Monday Whole School at 9.00am

Tuesday– class worship to focus on reflection at 9:25am

Wednesday– Whole School Church Worship at 9:25am

Thursday – Whole School singing at 9:25am

Friday – Whole School Celebration at 9:25am

All worships start with the lighting of the candle and a spoken response linked to the value. They usually include at least one Christian song and all assemblies are closed with a prayer. On occasions, when a whole school worship is not possible, the daily act of worship will be led by the class teacher in their own class. Each classroom has a 'Reflection Area' and a worship table and display.

Monday worship is usually led by the head teacher, who introduces the whole school value and makes links to life in school and the wider community. Further links to British Values are also made explicit during these assemblies.

Tuesday worship is led by teachers. This worship is linked to the class spiritual journals. Children complete tasks, discussions and reflections based on the value being explored.

Wednesday whole school worships are held in the church. These are mainly conducted by the Collective Worship Leader, the church reverend or other Christian leaders or organisations within the church. Open the Book lead the service once a month. Children are involved in taking part as appropriate.

Thursday's singing worship is usually organised by the music co-ordinator. A mixture of traditional hymn and songs linked to the term's value are sung. A piano is used when a pianist is available, otherwise backing tracks are used.

Friday Celebration is led by the Senior Leadership Team and children are awarded certificates for their achievements in school. Birthdays and team House points are also celebrated at this time.

Worship time is usually a maximum of 25 minutes unless it is a special celebration.

Collective Worship

We aim to use a variety of secular and Bible stories to raise issues and encourage the children to reflect on spiritual and moral insights linked with the weekly value. Children will be invited to contribute to the session by sharing their thoughts on an incident or event. Expression through singing and poetry will be a consistent part of our collective worship.

We will celebrate achievements and birthdays as a method of affirmation.

Class assemblies will take place once in the year with parents invited along, on a rota basis. The theme for these will relate to the learning in class. Children will be encouraged to read prayers, either from a selection of printed prayers or one written by themselves.

We encourage reflection through the use of a 'thinking' candle and/or focus and class prayer and reflection time.

We encourage reflection by saying grace at lunch and a prayer at the end of the day. Children will reflect on the good things that happened during their day.

Budgetary and Resources

In conjunction with resources for RE it is planned to expand the story selection relevant to RE themes. Artefacts which have been purchased prove to be invaluable when introducing the practices of other faith communities. These are kept in the resource area.

Reference material for staff will be kept in the staff room and in the school library.