



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Policy Review	
Review schedule	Every 3 years
Reviewing committee	People and curriculum
Date of review	July 2020
Date of next review	July 2023

Head Teacher Signature	S. A. Roycroft
Chair of committee signature	Reviewed by JG and then by the full governing body

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT OUR SCHOOL

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" for the majority of the time. They must also be "appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils". Therefore, as a Church school, our acts of Worship are explicitly Christian although we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school community.

Many families who send their children to this school are largely 'nominally' Christians. In addition there are children who are from non-religious backgrounds. In asking our children to worship we consider the background that our children come from. Collective worship is not a time to convert but to give children a balanced, educated understanding within a spiritual setting. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times.

The head teacher is responsible for arranging the daily act of collective worship after consulting with the governors and with guidance from our church partners.

VALUES AND AIMS

We believe that collective worship is a special time where all members of the school community come together. We believe that it both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner. We have a Church council made up of Year 5 pupils and they share in the responsibility of preparing, delivering and evaluating worship. Any child in Year 5 can volunteer to be a part of Church council.

Through our worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment which provides an opportunity for the school community to:

- Teach children how to worship and reflect;
- become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community;
- enable the children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- enable children to explore their own beliefs and those of others;
- deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them;
- encourage participation and response;
- celebrate the values of the school as a Christian community

PLANNING

Our worship themes reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar and are linked to the Diocesan Collective worship scheme. Our plans also include the value focus for the half term. The school has chosen 6 Christian values to focus upon and the Head teacher, together with a group of children from Year 5 (Church council), plan the worship for the term. We use the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning. However, we also respond to local situations and need, both within the school and outside. We aim to use a range of resources and materials appropriate to the pupil's ages and stages of development. To enhance this further we have split acts of collective worship on a weekly basis (Infant and Junior).

Simple plans are kept each week and evaluations are made to inform future plans.

ASSEMBLY PLAN

We combine our acts of worship with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. We ensure that the difference between our worship and assembly is clearly marked by the use of a lit candle. Our daily act of worship is held at 10.30 a.m. from Monday to Thursday and on Fridays at 9.15 a.m. The whole school assembles in the school hall Tuesday to Thursday. On Mondays Infant worship takes place in class 2 and Junior worship takes place in class 3. Several times a term we visit the church of St. Bartholomew for collective worship, including end of term services.

Monday	Infant assembly (in class 2) led by teachers Junior assembly (in class 3) led by teachers
Tuesday	Whole school - to include learning and practicing of new hymns together
Wednesday	Whole school led by Rev. Canon Jonathan Gordon or Rev Michael Eggleton
Thursday	Whole school led by Head teacher and/or Church council
Friday	Whole school - classes, visitors and celebration (celebration offers an opportunity to acknowledge and Reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued.)

CONSULTATION

The Head teacher and Church Council are responsible for planning the themes for worship, in consultation with clergy from St. Bartholomew's church.

CONTENT OF WORSHIP

We believe that creating the right atmosphere is crucial to the quality of the worship. We choose from a range of methods, including:

- pupils' contributions - This may include reading, acting, sharing a prayer, welcoming people to worship or asking/answering questions.
- sacred and secular stories / readings - these may be from the Bible or linked to our half termly value focus (these are sometimes in the form of a video)
- artefacts / focal point for prayer/reflection - this may include a piece of art work, a photograph and most often is a lit candle
- dialogue / silence - we may explore a question through dialogue, we may ask children to use their words in the form of a set of words used in Christian tradition or we may give children time to reflect and to be silent.
- Visitors are invited in where they can contribute from personal experience/faith or their work. This will form part of the act of worship with the school adding the other important elements of worship.
- Song / music is a very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the school community. We aim to create a balance of music, speech and silence and choose songs or hymns appropriate for the pupils and the theme.
- Prayer Our collective worship always includes a prayer. This can either be the school prayer, the Lord's prayer, a prayer written by the children or another to fit with the theme of the worship. We feel that prayer is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts. Nevertheless, pupils are not required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe. They are also given the choice as to whether they close their eyes and put their hands together or whether they look at the candle.

Each class has its own prayer box within the classroom and children can write a prayer and place it in the box whenever they wish. Children's prayers are brought into assembly on a regular basis and offered up to God. Children may read out their prayer if they wish. The school respects children's privacy and understands that they may not wish their prayer to be shared with others.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

At this school we evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

- the purpose and the theme of the worship being clear to all those present
- involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils
- positive response to shared experience
- the growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
- a contribution to the spiritual development of individuals - offering pupils/adults something to think about and take into the life of the school
- a sense of occasion

- staff being present and taking part

The church council evaluate worship using an evaluation form.

PARENTS

Parents are invited to all services held in church and to any services held in school which are led by a particular year group or which mark a celebration on the Church calendar.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school our school will comply. Any parent who wishes this should consult the Head teacher. Teachers may also withdraw from collective worship.

MONITORING

Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is within the role of the governors monitoring and reports are given to the governing body.