

Appendix 1 - RE Policy

Collective Worship Policy **Reviewed Autumn 2015** **(Next Review Autumn 2017)**

The Collective Worship Policy will support the delivery of the Mission Statement:

Mission Statement - Ethos and Values

Our values are informed by the values central to Christianity.

We are ambitious- we want each member of the school to discover and realize their true potential in a Christian environment.

Aims:-

We want to be:-

- A school where teaching challenges, excites and inspires
- A community to which children, parents, staff and governors feel they belong.
- A school which builds confidence, commitment and respect for each other
- A school which worships prays and celebrates the love of God wherever it is found.
- A school which has a culturally diverse community and values this diversity

Collective Worship Aims:

- The acts of collective worship have an important role in establishing our community as one based on the ministry and teaching of Jesus.
- The acts of collective worship provide an opportunity for all to contribute and from which all can gain, no matter what their personal commitment.
- The acts of collective help to establish embed and give expression to the Christian values which form our school ethos.
- To provide a special and separate time in each school day in which all members of our school community children are given the opportunity to participate in prayer and the worship of God.
- To explore Christian beliefs and practices.
- Provide an opportunity for children to develop their spirituality and relationship with God.
- To develop children's prayer life.
- To develop children's biblical knowledge.
- Teach about the practices of the Church of England.
- Allow children to experience and explore the meanings of the liturgy and rituals and worship within the Anglican tradition.
- To promote the moral codes of the school and explore the rationale for them.
- To reflect upon moral values and issues.
- Respect the integrity of all individuals and the community to share what is of importance to them.
- To encourage children to develop a sense of responsibility for themselves, those around them, their families and the wider community.
- To celebrate and value the values, talents and achievements of themselves and others.
- To enable everyone to achieve a sense of belonging and to appreciate the opinions and beliefs of others.
- To understand the important celebrations of other faiths.
- Have a sense of occasion.
- Invite participation.
- Be varied in style and include different forms of expression (art, music, story, dance)
- Make use of symbols and imagery.

Through our weekly pattern of collective worship we offer our children a variety of experiences and the opportunity to explore a variety of themes. Worship is delivered in different ways and in groupings relevant to the abilities and ages of our children. We attempt to provide a sense of occasion and to foster an atmosphere of spiritual reflection and response in which children are encouraged to develop the skills of being still and listening. Music plays an important role in all acts of worship and, together with prayer, silence and ritual, helps to reflect and reinforce the Christian ethos and beliefs of our school.

Planning and Content

Themes for 'Worship Times' are Christian in content and are based around the Christian calendar. The themes will focus on spiritual and moral issues linked to the school values and the liturgical year as well as any current humanitarian issue or charity event the school is focusing on. The theme is agreed by the R.E. Curriculum Leader, the Faith Team and members of the clergy at the end of term for the beginning of the following term. The themes will be reflected throughout the term in school and Church 'Worship Times.' Though collective worship is always a special and separate activity, it will sometimes feature events concerned with the everyday life of the school and be used to celebrate the achievements of our children. Themes being explored in other areas of the curriculum may occasionally be covered, celebrations of other major faiths will also be covered, however all acts of worship will be Christian in content. Children are encouraged to contribute to the planning and presentation of 'Worship Time' and to participate by responding to questions, doing a practical task, displaying art work and through drama, reading, singing and story-telling.

Each act of Collective Worship involves:

- A greeting at the beginning
- A time for quiet reflection
- A prayer or space for own prayers
- Music to provide time for thought or celebration.

(Please see liturgies for school and church worship on the shared area).

Pattern of Collective Worship

The following will take place within the pattern of collective worship;

- Celebration together
- Community building
- Personal development
- Reflection
- Spiritual growth
- Meditation together
- Sharing common values
- Corporate identity
- Exploration of beliefs
- Response
- Reverence for God

Class prayers are said at lunchtime (before meal times) and at the beginning or end of each school day. A candle is lit at the beginning of every worship including times of class reflection.

A Worship Time Plan is produced each term by the R.E. Curriculum Leader in consultation with the Faith Team, Children's Faith Team and clergy. The structure is as follows:

Monday

The Head Teacher or a senior member of staff leads Whole School Worship.

Tuesday

Phase Worship led by a class teacher linked to the school value or the liturgical theme. Each fortnight a Key Stage 2 Mass is held in the school led by a member of the clergy and the R.E Curriculum Leader. Children are involved in serving and presenting the mass. Key Stage 1 Worship is led by class teachers once a fortnight.

Wednesday

Singing worship led by Music leader and/or children lead in prayers. Singing is focused on our whole school services and mass.

Whole school services are held each half term and a whole school mass is held each term.

Thursday

Praise assembly led by Head teacher or a member of the SLT. These pupils have their names on the Star of the Week on the school website, including praise for one child from each class demonstrating the value for the week.

Early years worship

Early Years Worship (known as Diddy Disciples) is led by Mother Sharon each week in both Reception and Nursery. Children have an opportunity to worship together on a liturgical theme in an interactive early years approach.

Friday

Each class in rotation takes assembly linked to their class topic including R.E. and Christian worship.

If the hall is out of use then Worship Times is held in class.

A record of school themes will be kept in the Worship Time file held in the Deputy Head Teacher's office.

Special Occasions

Special services and Mass is held in St Peter's Church and take place throughout the year to celebrate or acknowledge major festivals, these are as follows:

- Harvest
- Christmas
- Christingle
- Candlemas
- Ash Wednesday
- Easter
- St. Peter's Day
- Leavers' Service.

The school holds a whole school service and Mass once a term. During every Mass there is a celebration of the Eucharist.

Children, staff, parents and governors celebrate Christmas with a carol service in the evening at St Peter's Church. All KS2 children are expected to attend and KS1 children are encouraged to attend. At Easter the school has a special service in St Peter's Church. At the end of each school year there is a celebration and service for school leavers and their families.

Each term the Headteacher and Deputy leads a class prayer reflection to observe special times in the church year or events e.g. Remembrance Day. The prayer reflections are also centred on the school values. Two classes at a time attend the reflection in order to give children and staff a space and time to reflect. During these times all other classes will hold a class assembly based on the values.

Monitoring

Collective Worship will be monitored in line with the R.E. monitoring schedule. Worship Time can be monitored by the R.E. curriculum leader, Faith Team, teaching staff, governors and the clergy. A report will be presented to governors at the end of the year. Evaluations of Worship Time and class reflections carried out by the children or staff will be collated by the curriculum leader. The Faith Team and R.E. curriculum leader will obtain views on worship through pupil interviews, questionnaires for pupils/parents/staff.

Resources

- Music is played at every Worship Time. Children often contribute to Worship through playing the piano or an instrument.
- A file is kept in the Deputy Head Teacher's Office for Key Stage Worship Times.
- Candles are provided for the whole school.
- A laptop may be used to show videos, power point presentations or children's work.
- Other resources are found in the resources room relating to Christianity and other faiths.
- Books, including prayer books are kept in the PPA Room, Head Teacher or Deputy Head's office.
- Artefacts are also used to support the theme

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to request that their child is withdrawn from collective worship and Religious Education. If this were the case the child would be sent to another class, or be put in the care of another adult employed by the school. However we would hope that all children would participate fully in all aspects of school life, especially in Worship Time for personal reflection.