



Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed: October 2018

Next review date: October 2019

*Journey together,
guided by God,
to do the best we can.*

Rationale

One of the school's aims is to be a Christian Community where everyone can grow in Christian faith and develop an understanding and tolerance of others. In accordance with this and with statutory requirements, collective worship is placed at the centre of the school's daily life. The spiritual, social, cultural and moral welfare of all children is of prime concern to us. Christian values are integral in our ethos and teaching and our daily acts of worship reflect this.

The Legal Requirements

Schools are bound by the requirements of the 1988 Educational Reform Act which charges them to:

- promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and of society;
- prepare such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The basic requirements are that all pupils shall take part in an act of collective worship every day.

The arrangements for collective worship in this school are made by the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

The daily act of collective worship required by law in the school shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England.

In recognition of the particular affiliation and ethos of this school, all staff and pupils are expected to take part in worship though the right to withdraw exists. The Governors would hope that parents and staff having chosen this school would wish to support its ethos.

The aim of collective worship is to:

1. provide children with an opportunity to worship God;
2. give children experience of Christian acts of worship within an Anglican framework;
3. provide opportunities to explore different Christian Values.
4. give children the opportunity for reflection and thought in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity;
5. provide a special, quiet, focused time where children are invited to explore issues for themselves and reflect and learn from their own experiences;
6. provide an experience where children can consider moral and spiritual issues;
7. provide worship which is appropriate for children's needs and interests and to encourage their participation;
8. be an activity distinct from, but linked to and supportive of, other school activities;
9. provide experience which enables children to develop sensitivity and a sense of wonder, awe and mystery for the world of which they are a part;
10. provide opportunities to ask and answer 'Big Questions,' related to our worship.
11. provide an opportunity for celebration of the school community, its life, its work and its ethos at which staff and pupils can come together as a family;
12. develop children's skills, for example, music, drama, ICT.

Delivering collective worship at our school

A daily act of collective worship is provided for all pupils. This will be held in various ways – whole school, class groups or phase groups – giving an opportunity for all children to take part. Worship will be held both indoors and outdoors.

All collective worship is time-tabled and usually held in the morning when children are most receptive, although times may vary eg on a Thursday afternoon.

Collective worship should:

- be inclusive and involve children;
 - relate to children's experiences;
 - build on the school's shared values;
 - provide an opportunity for prayer and reflection;
 - be curricular and educational.
1. Acts of worship should be carefully planned and records kept. Themes will be planned for each week and a schedule for each term and year, but will also be responsive to current affairs and the needs of children. Themes may link to: displays / artefacts in reflective areas in classrooms; external activities, for example, Art Exhibition at St Mary/St Nicolas Church; large artwork / sculpture / display.
 2. Acts of worship will be held in the school hall, classrooms, the Parish Church or appropriate outside venues, for example, Lancing College.
 3. The setting for acts of worship should be attractive and welcoming with a focus for all attending. Children should enter and leave in an orderly manner. Music will be played on entry and departure. Hymns and songs will be sung and there will be a quiet time for children to reflect. The visible focus may be a picture, slides, artefacts or the lighting of a candle. For school Eucharist Year 6 pupils will prepare the altar and process in with the cross at the start of worship. At the end all stand while pupils process out with the cross.
 4. Acts of worship will be led by members of the Senior Leadership Team or other staff members, whole classes, groups of children, local clergy or visiting speakers.
 5. A place is given for the celebration of the school and individual achievements – including BEST point certificates, and the birth of a new baby.
 6. ICT will be used where possible.
 7. Children will be able to participate in a number of ways including worship, planning, setting up the hall or room, working the data projector/CD player/computer, singing, reading, responding, reflecting, spending time in prayer and evaluating. Opportunity to perform musical recitals at the start and end of worship will be given to children who play musical instruments.
 8. Parents, friends and governors will be invited to particular acts of worship such as class assemblies and Eucharist services.
 9. The school will support the Diocesan Leavers' Service.
 10. All visiting speakers will have access to the Collective Worship Policy.
 11. Acts of collective worship will not normally be used as a forum for announcements about conduct or matters of organisation of the school.
 12. Acts of worship should be referred to or written about in the School Newsletter.
 13. Acts of worship should be planned, monitored and evaluated by the "Dream Team" and the Senior Leadership Team.
 14. The Worship and Ethos Committee should also be involved in the monitoring and evaluating of worship within the school.
 15. Acts of worship will be evaluated against the SIAMS Toolkit.

Acts of worship in class or year groups

1. Class worship, led by the Class Teacher will occur in each classroom or outdoors in an agreed location (eg in the Tree Circle of Friendship) on a regular basis (approx. every two to three weeks).
2. The acts of worship should have a visible aid to help focus on God – candle, picture, artefact, vase of flowers, display on a cloth, poem or natural objects (see Guidance for Class Worship).
3. There should be time for quiet reflection.
4. Children in Years 4-6 may have the opportunity to use their Bibles during worship.
5. Children should be given the opportunity to participate and/or plan and arrange worship themselves (see Pupil's Guide to Leading a Whole School Assembly).

The Anglican Tradition

The faith and practice of the Church of England is explored in collective worship through a child's time in school.

The areas covered are:

- using the Bible;
- taking part in the set order of Anglican worship;
- reflecting on Christian symbols;
- observing the cycle of the Church's year and holy days;

- using the Parish Church and its priests as resources;
- building up a collection of prayers, hymns and songs for worship;
- learning traditional responses and prayers;
- providing the opportunity to discover the value of silence within worship;
- recognising our strong commitment to ecumenism;
- welcoming all pupils of whatever faith and celebrating shared values and beliefs.

The Bible

The use of the Bible is central to worship and is used to enrich worship, to enhance the theme and to give context to the worship. Bible readings and stories are a regular focus during worship. In addition, children are presented with Bibles (by the local vicar) at the beginning of Year 4, for use during class worship, quiet reading time and RE lessons in the subsequent school years. These Bibles are then presented again formally at their school leaver's service as the children continue onwards in their spiritual journeys.

The Eucharist

The Eucharist is central to the expression of Anglican worship. In this school it is celebrated regularly, usually twice a term for KS2 pupils, parents and friends of the school. The Eucharist is planned with care so that the children can grow in understanding of what it means to be believers. On St Nicolas Day or close to it we celebrate the Eucharist with the whole school, governors, parents and friends.

Prayer

Prayer is an important part of collective worship and a natural part of school life. Children can be helped to understanding through a flexible approach to prayer.

We use different methods of prayer such as:

- arrow prayers anytime, anywhere, anyhow;
- prayer and music;
- prayer and silence and quiet time;
- postures for prayer such as hands together or hands in laps;
- ways in which pupils can make prayer requests such as our prayer folder/book in the hall or prayer post-box.
- prayer activities within the Prayer Space, which is held annually and led by the Brighton and Hove City Mission and Off the Fence charities.

We also use set prayers – our School Prayer, the traditional version of the Lord's Prayer and the prayer of St Richard of Chichester, as well as our own collection of prayers and graces for use at lunchtime and at the end of the day.

Hymns and Music

Music plays an important part in our worship and helps to create an atmosphere that sets the tone for worship.

We have a large repertoire of hymns, songs and rounds. These include a variety from all traditions of Christian worship.

Hymns and songs are selected for the appropriate age group and are practised regularly. Where possible, these relate to the theme of our worship eg Friendship, or to the relevant Christian festivals.

Music is chosen to start and end our collective worship. This is either recorded music or can be live music played by children and visiting adults.

Planning

Worship is planned in advance using long term plans and termly plans. The themes ensure a balance by considering special occasions in the school's life, the use of the Church Calendar, Christian values (including the school's own: Friendship, Respect, Hope, Compassion and Creativity), the leadership of the worship and special services.

The planned worship for the term provides opportunity to be flexible offering invitation to reflect, be responsive to local and national situations and current affairs, be responsive to children's needs, and appropriateness for our school.

KS2 children can also plan whole school worship sessions, in conjunction with the Senior Leadership Team Music Leader.

Resources and Review of Policy

The worship plan is accessible to staff in the staffroom, hall and via the weekly Staff Bulletin. Worship resources are kept in the holy cupboard, and Headteacher's room.

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Related Policies / Documents

- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural policy
- Ethos guidelines
- RE Policy
- School vision, mission and aims
- Christian values webpages
- Christian Values for Life materials
- Big Start Assembly materials