



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

At Deddington Primary school we believe in the concept of lifelong learning and the concept that both adults and children learn new things every day. We maintain that learning should be engaging and inclusive and an enjoyable experience for everyone; it should be fun. Through our teaching we equip children with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to be able to make informed choices about the important things in their future lives. We believe that appropriate teaching and learning experiences help children to lead happy and rewarding lives.

Our Christian values we hold as a school permeate throughout all areas of school life.

Perseverance Respect Honesty Kindness
Faith Friendship Forgiveness Responsibility

Introduction

Collective worship, within a Christian context, plays an integral part in the life of our school. Our Christian values which we hold as a school of respect, faith, friendship, kindness, perseverance, forgiveness, responsibility and honesty permeate throughout all areas of school life, although worship time provides a specific opportunity to focus on these values within a Christian context. Collective worship is an oasis in the school day when children meet together with members of staff in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is regarded as 'quality' time and represents something special or separate from ordinary school routine. It reflects our mission statement and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in our school, reinforcing the importance of each individual a unique child of God.

Aims and objectives:

Our collective worship provides pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- worship God;
- experience a variety of styles of worship;
- celebrate:
 - Christian festivals;
 - school values;
 - achievements;
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer;
- develop a reflective approach to life and reflect on Christian values;
- develop as a community based on Christian values;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship;
- feel safe, valued and affirmed.

At times worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular it will:

- nurture spiritual growth;
- consider moral issues in a Christian context;
- enhance social understanding;
- explore beliefs and cultural heritage;
- encourage tolerance and understanding of different religions.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

A worship group, including staff, a foundation governor and clergy, meets once a term to plan worship. Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience, whilst recognizing the distinct difference between an 'assembly' and an 'act of collective worship'. Leaders, including the children's Worship Group, plan the content and activities included in worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme, and the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils. Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as dance and drama alongside traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship, with the school prayer integral to every act of worship. Prayer is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship. Our prayer board/area also invites children to write their own prayers.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection; evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

The Pattern of Collective Worship

Acts of worship take place daily in a variety of groupings; in the school hall, classrooms, in the Church and on occasions outside. We follow the seasons of the Church year and within this significant festivals and other special days are observed (including: Harvest, Christmas, Candlemas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost). Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

Each week the worship follows a set timetable with a planned theme, linking to the school values and the Church's calendar as appropriate. The timetable and termly questions are on display in the hall on the worship board. Each worship will include the 'agreed non-negotiables for collective worship' (see *Appendix*).

The usual timetable of Collective Worship is:

Monday: Whole School; Head teacher led.

Tuesday: Whole School/Key Stage (as appropriate to theme); teacher/class led.

Wednesday: Whole School/Key Stage (as appropriate to theme); teacher/Clergy led.

Thursday: Teacher led in class, reflection style assembly based on weekly theme.

Friday: Whole School; Head teacher/senior management/class/child led, with a celebratory theme, open to the wider community.

On Thursday the act of worship takes place in individual classrooms, the time of the day is at the discretion of the teacher, and may last up to 15/20 minutes. It is in a reflective style; using music, words or pictures to provide a thought provoking stimulus which is not necessarily faith specific.

Leading worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church Community. Children are also given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy. Leaders from different denominations or other faiths within the area help to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

Attendance

We recognise that by law, Collective Worship must be provided for every child every day and reflect the school's Trust Deed. Our aspiration is that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and is never coercive or indoctrinatory. However, we recognize that parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship; in the first instance we ask parents who seek to do this to speak with the head teacher.

As a Church school all teaching staff are expected to attend (or lead) whole school worship and governors are always welcome. Parents, visitors and parishioners are sometimes invited to attend worship, with particular emphasis on Community Services held at the local Church (e.g. Community Communion or Harvest). Friday worship in school is also open to all members of the community.

Monitoring

Monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship is an on-going process carried out on a regular basis (either informally or formally), with input from staff, clergy, pupils, governors and parents. The School Development Plan includes a section on Collective Worship as and when necessary. Foundation Governors have a responsibility for overseeing the effective planning and implementation of the Collective Worship policy and ensuring the SIAMS evaluation is up to date in relation Section 2 'What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community' (see Foundation Governor Terms of Reference).

Collective Worship Appendix

Non-Negotiable Features of Collective Worship	
All worship sessions will follow the worship timetable for the term.	
Class based worship and reflection sessions will be recorded on short term plans and weekly timetables.	
Worship will have a visual stimulus or focal point.	
Worship will include prayer; the school prayer will be recited by all (in addition to sharing class prayers, the Lord's prayer and other prayers when appropriate).	
Worship will include music (particularly whilst the children enter and exit worship sessions)	
Worship is always inclusive. It will include a quiet time of spiritual reflection; children can talk to their God or reflect silently.	
Reference will be made in worship sessions to God or Jesus	
We will also see the following good practice most of the time. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reference to the school values and the explicitly Christian links• A song or hymn.• A Bible reading or Biblical message• A story or talk relevant to the age group	

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Name: Libby Knox

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Headteacher: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

Governor: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

Date of review: Feb. 2020

Date to be reviewed: _____