

All Saints CE (Aided) Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Introduction

This document is a statement of the school's intentions with regard to the Act of Collective Worship. As our school is a Voluntary Aided Church of England school, the arrangements for a daily act of worship are the responsibility of the Governing Body in consultation with the Head Teacher.

Our daily act of collective worship is an important part of school life and reflects the ethos and aims of the school. It will follow the statutory requirements of the 1988 Education reform Act and the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, (Section 70). Our acts of collective worship will be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and will be based on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church attitudes. However, it is important to recognise that a number of our children come from other faith backgrounds. Our acts of collective worship will be conducted in a manner sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school community. With this in mind, significant festivals of other faith communities will be acknowledged as appropriate.

Aims

Through the daily act of collective worship we aim to:

- Provide an opportunity for thought, prayer, reflection and celebration in a caring atmosphere; through this children will learn about and are nurtured in the Christian faith;

Objectives:

- To teach children how to worship;
- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- Create a sense of school identity and of belonging to a school community which shares common experiences;
- Celebrate values we hold as important
- Encompass all aspects of school life, all curriculum areas and reflect the school's ethos;
- Show children that we are members of a wider community, both local and global and to develop in them a sense of community spirit;
- Encourage a care and concern and respect for others in society and the natural world, we are the steward's of God's world;
- Help children to think about a wide range of ideas and dimensions of life, including the spiritual, ritual, wonderful, joyful, tragic, sorrowful, solemn and humorous, contributing to the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- To encourage a sense of awe and wonder
- To maintain and strengthen our links with our local parish church – All Saints Church, Wokingham

Organisation

Our daily act of collective worship, which will include a prayer, may take many forms. There may be music, song and dance, drama, prayers, readings, teachings, listening, reflective silence, meditation, use of artefacts and symbols, the lighting of candles. They will be conducted in a dignified way where children are expected to behave in an appropriate manner. Children are made aware that this is a special time; they should be quiet and thoughtful, listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. Sometimes music, artefacts and candles will be used as a focal point for the children. Children will be actively involved as much as possible.

It is important to recognise the achievements and learning of our children both in and out of school. This is celebrated with certificates, house points, verbal acknowledgement or other similar awards for

specific events and activities; children are also invited to share their outside successes. We also encourage classes to share their work with the rest of the school during their class assembly. Parents and friends are encouraged to attend; this promotes the partnership between home and school and promotes the community spirit of the school.

Through our acts of collective worship we hope that children and adults take something away to think about into their daily life within school and the community. Staff are encouraged to follow up our acts of collective worship at appropriate times throughout the school day to enable children to consider the impact of what they have been part of. The organisation of collective worship may vary from time to time. Our act of collective worship will usually be held after the registration period in the morning.

The current pattern for collective worship is:

Monday: Whole school: led by the Headteacher.

Tuesday: Key Stage, to incorporate parent sharing: Planned acts of worship led by all teaching staff in rotation. This provides an opportunity for worship in smaller groups as well as to meet the needs of each specific age group. These often reflect work being covered in class during the term, with hymns and prayers appropriate to their focus.

Wednesday: Whole school: usually taken by a member of the parish clergy

Thursday: Whole school: The singing and learning of hymns led by school's music subject leader with support from other teaching staff. This is linked to the theme of the week with a focus on the teaching through the words of the songs.

Friday: Celebration Assembly: presented to the whole school by the Deputy Headteacher. Commendations, super commendations and house points are awarded as appropriate. It is also a useful time to follow up work that has taken place across the school. This Assembly reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage them to participate in this particular assembly by showing things they have achieved outside of school as well as acknowledging and rewarding them for their achievements in school. This plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

Themes for collective worship are taken from the traditions of the Christian faith, festivals and events of the Christian calendar; these are planned on a termly basis. Our themes will reflect whole school areas of work - particularly those linked with PSHE and Citizenship [SEAL]. This encourages an integrated approach to PSHE and worship. There will be some stories from other faiths if appropriate and secular stories. Although we are a Church of England school we celebrate the diversity of other religions and cultures wherever possible. We see it as our role to promote respect for, and understanding of, those with different beliefs and religious practices, based on the study of different faiths. Assemblies can be followed up in the classroom by further discussion and emphasis throughout the school day. There will also be opportunities to respond, in an appropriate and sensitive way to incidents and events, both local and national, as they arise. We occasionally have representatives of other local religious groups who conduct Assemblies as well.

Singing and music are important elements within our collective worship. Music is selected on a weekly basis to precede and end each act of worship. Where possible this is linked to the weekly theme. Collective worship usually takes place in our school hall, but for a small number of festivals and special occasions it takes place in All Saints Church, Wokingham. These usually include a service in September/October, Christmas Carol Service, Christingle Service, Easter and our Leavers' Service at the end of the Summer Term.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend our acts of collective worship; however the rights of parents to withdraw their children from the act of collective worship is an integral part of the Education Act (1988). Any parent who wishes to exercise this right may do so in consultation with the Head Teacher and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the time concerned. The Chair of Governors will also be made aware of any requests of withdrawal from collective worship. A record of all children who withdraw from collective worship will be kept by the Headteacher.

Collective Worship is an important part of the ethos of our school which staff must be willing and able to uphold. They are required to 'have regard to the Christian character of the school and its foundation'.

Roles and responsibilities

THE ROLE OF THE Collective Worship Coordinator

The main function of the R.E. / Collective Worship Co-ordinator is to support class teachers as much as possible and thereby to improve the overall quality of Religious Education and Collective Worship at All Saints CE (Aided) Primary School.

- 1) Planning a termly programme of themes for assemblies.
- 2) Ensuring there are resources available for the above
- 3) Keeping up to date with relevant courses, arranging, where appropriate, training and ensuring effective communication with staff, the clergy, parents and anyone else concerned.
- 4) Managing the budget and organising resources, ensuring a wide and relevant range for a variety of cultures and religions.

THE ROLE OF THE Governing Body

The GB is responsible for

- Ensuring that the Foundation of the school is honoured and that the worship policy is firmly based upon the intentions set down in the Trust Deed or in accordance with the diocesan guidelines
- Ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored
- The SDP which includes a section on Collective Worship and gives an indication of the intentions and arrangements for review.

Monitoring and Evaluating

The monitoring and evaluation of this policy is the joint responsibility of the Head Teacher and the Governors who should monitor and evaluate the success of acts of collective worship through:

- Regular discussions with staff and pupils as to the relevance and impact of acts of worship;
- Headteacher observation of and participation in acts of worship to assess children's involvement and response and appropriateness of content and presentation;
- Regular review of school practice, evaluated against SIAS Self Evaluation documentation
- Identification of any relevant staff training needs
- Regular monitoring and development of resources
- Checking that appropriate opportunities to raise multicultural, equal opportunities and gender issues are created and taken
- Ensuring that the legal requirements for collective worship are being met.

A record of collective worship is kept by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and Headteacher, it is discussed with the Incumbent on an annual basis. The Governing Body will review this policy formally every two years. Informal review may be necessary in the interim and will take place as and when required.

Reviewed July 2009 by ADz and JK