

St Werburgh's Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

'Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at Parish and Diocesan level. The School aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.'

Aims

- To teach and promote Christian values.
- To provide opportunities for all invited to worship and share their love of God.
- To offer pupils and staff opportunities to explore the Christian Faith through stories, poems, drama, music, prayer and quiet reflection.
- To allow pupils and staff to explore their own faith and encourage participation and response
- To contribute positively to the spiritual and moral development of pupils and staff
- To promote a reflective and worshipful atmosphere in which pupils can experience some of the various ways people express awe, wonder, reverence, joy and sorrow.
- To provide an opportunity for pupils and staff to experience stillness, quietness, joyfulness and laughter.

National and LEA Documentation

Our Collective Worship is in accordance with the trust deed of the school and or the legal requirements set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that, "Collective Worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character which means that it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief". Thus, in this Church of England Voluntary Aided School, Collective Worship conforms with the ethos and rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England.

Planning

We follow an annual cycle of planning which is broken down into termly themes. Each theme is a Christian Value taken from the 'Values for Life' resource file. These Values are addressed in weekly blocks. Each Weekly block has a title related to the Value we are exploring. Staff are provided with a learning objective, a bible reference and where possible a suggested resource. This allows staff the flexibility to deliver the worship in their own style while still maintaining continuity and progression. The Christian year gives the annual shape to the worship and allows us to make use of the richness of the Anglican traditions. We also draw on key festivals and celebrations from other faiths in order to broaden pupils understanding of world faiths. We also embrace our links with India in Worships, inviting clergy from other churches in Derby and those from India.

Organisation

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that each pupil takes part in an act of Collective Worship each day. All members of staff take it in turns to lead daily worship. Each week we

hold Class or Key Stage Worship in order to allow the opportunities of Collective Worship to be offered to children at a more personal level according to their age and level of understanding. In addition, we hold celebration worships in order to celebrate the gifts and individuality of each child.

Resources

We draw on a variety of resources for our acts of Collective Worship these include:

- Values for Life resource- By Jumping Fish
- the Bible in a variety of forms,
- music and hymns
- interactive and visual resources,
- Power point presentations
- Our parish priest and other visitors who are encouraged to come and share their experiences and their faith.
- Collective Worship resource books and relevant web sites.

Equal Opportunities, Special Educational Needs and Community Cohesion.

The Anglican nature of the school's foundation is recognised in Collective worship in ways that are appropriate to the ages and background of the pupils. All are invited. It is important that our worship is accessible and relevant to all and this is always a key consideration during the planning and delivery of each act of Worship. We also draw on key festivals and celebrations from other faiths in order to broaden pupils understanding of world faiths.

Parental Involvement

Parents are invited and actively encouraged to attend key acts of Collective Worship at various times during the year. They are also informed of their right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship through the information in the school brochure.

Monitoring

It is the role of the Collective Worship Co-ordinator to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship. Other senior members of staff along with the incumbent may also support with monitoring. Strategies for collecting evidence may include:

- observations of practice
- observations of pupil participation
- occasional formal observations and feedback
- seeking feedback from pupils, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors
- pupils' voluntary response to worship
- a rota of class evaluations of worship

Evaluating

The information gathered via strategies listed above will be analysed in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of Collective Worship. Areas noted for improvement are carefully considered to ensure worships continue to be meaningful and valuable.