St Andrew's CE Junior School

Collective Worship Policy

Our Vision

Through experiences rooted in Christian Values and through mutual Respect, we guide children to develop Compassion, Responsibility and Resilience in a caring environment

Introduction

Church schools in the diocese must fulfil two legal requirements for Collective Worship:

• The legal requirement for Church schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship. "The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups." The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

• Collective worship in Church schools must be in accordance with the school's Trust Deed.

The school respects the fact that children will come from a range of religious backgrounds and from homes without religion. All acts of worship will therefore be planned to allow for a variety of responses and to encourage the participation and involvement of all.

Our School

Here at St Andrew's, Collective Worship is integral to our Christian identity and sense of belonging to the world. The daily act of Collective Worship is a central and significant part of school life and it is at the heart of all that is done at our school. We also recognise that Collective Worship is an important time to provide opportunities for the Spiritual, Moral, Emotional, Social and Cultural development of all and to offer the opportunity for the whole school community to flourish in a safe environment through both sharing thoughts and personal reflection.

Collective Worship is a time when we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements. The worship in school is based on promoting Christian values which form the foundations of the school whilst also recognising other world religions and British values. The contributions of staff, pupils, members of the church and other visitors are valued highly with worships being attended by all children and staff.

Visitors to the school are always very welcome to join us in worship.

Communal and Personal Reflection:

Collective Worship at our school is a time when staff and children meet together and have the opportunity to reflect on the non-material dimensions of our lives together in the school community and as individuals. We have adopted the Roots and Fruits Creative Collective Worship scheme to develop the Christian vision and ethos of our school. The scheme is underpinned by 12 Christian values:

Generosity, Compassion, Forgiveness, Courage, Friendship, Respect, Thankfulness, Trust, Perseverance, Justice, Service and Truthfulness

Roots and Fruits 2 is underpinned by 6 Christian values:

Wisdom, Hope, Community, Dignity, Peace and Joy

Collective Worship is not regarded simply as a time to exchange information or deal with organisational issues. It is therefore expected that wherever possible, all pupils and members of both teaching and support staff attend Collective Worship.

Praise and Prayer:

We give children the opportunity to develop spiritually in the gathering together for daily Worship to praise the Awe and Wonder of God and the beauty of the world that God has created; to pray together, to learn about the teachings of both the Old and New Testament with particular emphasis on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

When the school hall is used for Collective Worship, reflective music is played as the children enter and leave and our Head Boys and Girls welcome the children into the hall. Children sit facing the altar table which encompasses a table cloth of the church colour of the season, a cross, a Children's bible, the prayer box, 3 wick candle and a healing candle.

With different leaders during the week come a variety of approaches and styles that provide interest and stimulation for the children. We welcome the use of puppets, music, role-play and the active participation of the children during story-telling. Our weekly timetable is as follows:

Monday - Roots & Fruits Christian based resource which focuses on a different Value to explore each half term/CW to celebrate special festivals such as Lent, Advent etc
Tuesday - Whole school singing assembly where a variety of non-secular songs from a variety of sources are shared /Termly Collective Worship Leaders assembly, organised entirely by themselves, with parents invited.
Wednesday - LYFTA assembly focuses on our Global neighbours and Christianity across the world/ Individual Class Collective Worship presented to the whole school with parents invited
Thursday - Stories from the Old Testament / Enterprise Day (twice yearly) linked to our sister school in Fort Usher.
Friday - Celebration Assembly. This is a celebration of our flourishing school and the week's achievements for both pupils and staff.

Aims
It is our aim that worship should provide members of the school community with the opportunity to:-

- Praise and reach out to God.
- Respond to Christian language and symbolism
- Experience stillness and quiet

- Focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and recognise and express this with understanding.
- Experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include: praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- Help children to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.
- Contribute to the spiritual, social, emotional, moral and cultural development of each child
- Allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- Understand Christianity as a global faith
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Promote community cohesion
- Give expression to, and reaffirm and practice the values of the school community

We use the Roots and Fruits 1 & 2 stimulus, which clearly roots all learning in the Bible and the Church year, is designed to support SIAMS requirements and meets the criteria set out in the Evaluation Schedule. It is based on a two year programme with each term having a key theme which each Worship is linked to.

The School Community

Each classroom has a reflection area which consists of examples of children's thinking, quotations from the Bible, candles and other items for reflection. The impact of this is that children take an interest in Bible stories, are observed demonstrating their awareness of Christian values and share their ideas at home.

Through our Daily Worship, we aim to bring an awareness of what it means to be part of a community, which cares for each other, for God and for the environment. In so doing, we hope that pupils will develop the ability to explore issues for themselves, be able to reflect upon and learn from experiences and develop a 'sense of Awe and Wonder' about the wider world, whilst understanding their role and responsibilities to their local community.

Staff and Governors are committed to ensuring that opportunities for worship are relevant to all pupils and pay due regard to their ages, abilities and interests. We aim to recognise the equality of each child in God's sight, whatever the child's gender, race, physical or mental ability. Pupils currently take part in collective worship and often lead worship, however, each parent has the right to withdraw their child for religious reasons and requests should be made to the headteacher in writing.

Staff and Governors seek to ensure that materials and subject matter used in Collective Worship are appropriate for the range of abilities of all pupils in school.

Child Led Worship

The Collective Worship Leaders, are a group of children from Y 4, 5 & 6 who are co-ordinated by four Y6 pupils who have been mentored by the previous Y6 leaders. The leader is responsible for organising the Worship table, coordinating leaders for the week and agreeing the opening comments and responses.

At the end of each full term, the Collective Worship Leaders are tasked with writing, organising and leading a whole school Collective Worship independently.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship is monitored through observations, by discussion at staff meetings and at Governors' meetings, feedback from children, and by reflections from those delivering worship. Each child has a Reflection Journal and time is given each half-term in order for this to be completed

Monitoring and Evaluation takes into account:

- Review of curriculum /contents and methodology
- Suitability for age, aptitude and ability, variety of styles, groupings, leadership
- Links to curriculum and classroom experience.
- Resources and budget
- INSET/training needs for staff
- Attendance at Worship by governors for monitoring purposes
- Asking: Are the requirements of the Law being met?

Rights of Withdrawal

At St Andrew's Junior School, we seek to be an inclusive community, however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Headteacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school has a system of suitable supervision for pupils withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship, however, no additional work is set or followed during this time.