



Valuing individuals, aspiring and achieving together in faith

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

JUNE 2024

St Swithun's C of E Primary Academy's Vision

Love bears all things

Believes all things

Hopes all things

Endures all things

(1 Corinthians 13:7)

Our Strategic Aims

Love bears all things

To teach our children to develop empathy and compassion with a love that never gives up on others and seeks Justice in the world

Love believes all things

To teach our children to trust in others and to search for the truth with the courage to be honest

Love hopes all things

To teach our children to know that God has a plan for each of us and to trust and respect one another, knowing that everyone has a uniquely valuable role to fulfil

Love endures all things

To empower our children to face challenges with resilience and to nurture a community build on honest reflection, repentance and forgiveness

St Swithun's Church of England Primary Academy

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Introduction

This document is a statement of the school's intentions with regard to the Act of Collective Worship. Our acts of collective worship are an important part of school life and reflect the ethos and aims of the school. Our acts of collective worship will be based on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church values.

Collective Worship will encompass the teachings in all faiths and will be a tool to explore British Values and respect and tolerance for all faith communities. Collective Worship will encompass the Christian Values, exploring them on a termly basis.

Aims

Through the daily act of collective worship, we aim to:

- Provide an opportunity for thought, prayer, reflection and celebration in a caring atmosphere.

Objectives:

- To teach children how to worship;
- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship
- 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;
- Give children an understanding of all faith communities and tolerance and respect for all
- Encourage a care and concern and respect for others in society and the natural world, we are the steward's of God's world;
- To encourage a sense of awe and wonder
- To maintain and strengthen our links with our local parish churches – St Saviour's, The Grove Methodist Church and St Swithun's Church.

Organisation

Our daily act of collective worship, which will include prayer, may take many forms. There may be music, song and dance, drama, prayers, readings, teachings, listening, reflective silence, 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 and that they should be quiet and thoughtful. 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. Parents and friends are encouraged to attend some of our Collective Worship times; 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.

The current pattern for collective worship is:

Monday: Whole school - Led by the Head teacher /member of SLT or local reverend

Tuesday: KS1 - Led by a staff member

Wednesday: KS2 - Led by a staff member

Thursday: Whole school: Led by the local reverend

Friday: Achievement: whole school celebration. Character certificates, celebration of wider school life achievements and good work and behaviour. 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. 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 in part using The Diocese of Rochester planning Framework. Our themes will reflect whole school areas of work – particularly linking to the Gospel and Character Value for the half term. There will be stories from other faiths and secular stories. We celebrate the diversity of other religions and cultures. We see it as our role to promote respect for, and understanding of, different beliefs and religious practices, based on the study of many faiths.

Collective Worship is to be followed up in the classroom by further discussion and reflection. There will also be opportunities to respond, in an appropriate and sensitive way to incidents and events, both local and national, as they arise.

Singing and music are important elements within our collective worship. Collective worship usually takes place in our school hall, but for a small number of festivals and special occasions it takes place at St Saviour's Church.

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.

Roles and responsibilities

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.

- 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 Governing Body 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 British Values are promoted in Collective Worship
- Ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored

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;
- Head teacher 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 June 2024