

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Introduction

The Collective Worship Policy at All Saints Anglican/Methodist Primary School follows the guidance of:

- Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship
- Southwell and Nottinghamshire Diocesan Board of Education

The daily act of collective worship, as required by law, shall be consistent with the Christian foundation of the school as expressed in the Trust Deed.

The daily act of collective worship is central to the life of the school. It is a very important time for the school family to come together. It is deliberately held at the start of everyday, thus setting the tone and providing the best possible start to the day. At All Saints School our collective worship is broadly Christian but there are occasions when other faiths are the focus during collective worship (for example festivals, holy days etc).

Collective Worship is not the same as an assembly – an assembly is a time when a school can come together, or assemble, to be given messages or information; Collective Worship is a time where the whole school comes together in an act of worship and reflection.

The Purpose and Aims of Collective Worship

- To contribute to a sense of unity and community for the school as a whole
- To promote spiritual, cultural and moral development
- To provide opportunity for an experience of worship
- To reflect on values and concerns of the school community and the community it serves
- To deepen and widen a child's emotional and spiritual response
- To enable children to gain insights into ways in which people express themselves within their faith commitments and to be sensitive to those different ways of responding

Objectives of Collective Worship

To develop a sense of:

- Awe, wonder and mystery
- Interdependence with the natural world
- Pattern, sequence and order
- Self-worth and value of others

To develop awareness:

- That life involves choices of belief/attitude/behaviour/relationships
- That there are issues of meaning, purpose and value in life

At All Saints School all Collective Worship is based on the principles that it should be:

- Inclusive
- Educational
- Spiritual

Collective Worship will contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children. It includes Christian worship and is seen as a special time where children can feel secure and relaxed and share with others to foster a feeling of community.

Collective Worship will take place every day at 8.50am for approximately 15 - 20 minutes. Wednesday's worship is class based to enable children to develop their own faith at their own level and Thursday's worship is led by our Anglican and Methodist Ministers on a rota basis. All staff attend and take part in Collective Worship.

Planning

Collective Worship is planned on a half-termly basis to follow either a theme based on RSE, which promotes spiritual, cultural and moral development, or developing an understanding of Fruits of the Spirit. They link closely to the school's work in RSE and RE. It may also include examples from other religious cultures. The themes are linked to:

- Christian Values
- Religious events and Festivals
- Special days
- Special events in the life of the school
- The wonderful diversity of our world

In school there is much to say thank you for, much to praise, much to hope and request and we will place these as high priorities, with a celebration at the end of each week.

The themes planned enable the children to reflect on matters of importance and offer them the chance to respond through a variety of activities, songs, music making, hymns, drama, role-play, the visual arts, silent thought, prayer and discussion.

Collective Worship

- Worship is arranged to develop a sense of occasion. Resources (artefacts, photographs, thoughts and words) are used to create an appropriate ambience
- Children are expected to enter and leave quietly
- While the children are in the hall they sit in classes on the floor
- Music is played at the start and end of worship from a variety of sources. This may reflect the theme of the assembly or the age of the child
- A worship song relevant to the theme is sung and generally a Powerpoint presentation is used.
- At least once a term the Pupil Led CAW Team plan and lead worship in school.
- Parents and members of the local community are invited, where possible, to Worship and occasionally visiting speakers are invited. We aim for each class to take responsibility for Worship during the year. On these occasions the parents of that class are invited to attend.
- Governors are encouraged to attend a CAW at least once a year

Monday – led by Mrs Richmond

Tuesday – led by classes, class teachers or Mrs Richmond. Once a term children lead Collective Worship – we have a team of children who have undertaken training in order to do this effectively

Wednesday – class based worship, a focussed time for each class to develop their faith at their level

Thursday – led by Rev. Murray and Rev. Bonny on alternate weeks.

Friday – Celebration Assembly led by Mrs Richmond

The Law

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship, but a request should be made in writing to the Head teacher. However, in choosing a Church School, we hope that parents are thereby committing themselves to their child's full participation in the Christian life of the school, including Religious Education and Worship.

Principles of Collective Worship

Collective Worship should be inclusive. It should:

- Be pupil centred, related to pupils own experience and relevant to pupil concerns
- Acknowledge diversity
- Involve pupils as active participants
- Match the needs of pupils'
- Foster a sense of community

Collective Worship should be educational. It should:

- Be a learning experience
- Be related to pupils own experiences
- Be properly planned
- Relate to other curriculum activities
- Provide the school with opportunities to reflect on the education it provides
- Have a purpose and celebrate educational achievements
- Be consistent with the aims of the school

Collective Worship should be spiritual. It should:

- Be a time to be still and reflect
- Be a special time – conducive to worship
- Allow children to feel calm, relaxed and secure
- Include a variety of words, music and images
- Provide opportunities for children to take part in a variety of spiritual opportunities
- Provide an opportunity for children to take part in worship

Towards wisdom, excellence and faith – to grow in mind, body and spirit, so that all who learn and work here may flourish experiencing the joy and hope of ‘life in all its fullness’

Collective Worship is central to the life of our school – it is not a separate event, it is a central part of achieving our vision. It is through our Collective Worship that children have the opportunity to learn about, and more importantly, learn from the teachings of the Bible and Christian Values. It is these values that run through our school and shape its distinctiveness and help our children to become all that God intended.

Head Teacher



Chair of Governor

