
Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed January
2022 to be
reviewed 2024

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Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our values of **Resilience, Courage, Kindness, Honesty and Being the Best We Can Be** and celebrates the central role that each child plays in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community. All acts of collective worship are inclusive and invitational.

Aims

Collective worship at St. Nicholas at Wade CEP School will support the school's distinctive vision and Mission Statement, by providing opportunities for members of the school community:

- to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life
- to reflect on their own beliefs
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to encounter God in Jesus Christ
- to reflect in ways that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognising the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions, belief systems and other world views.
- To create a worship culture where everyone feels truly welcomed and included.
- to nurture a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- to take responsibility for their own conduct, charitable giving, and social actions so that they might contribute positively to a multi-diverse society
- to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of students coming together
- to experience silence in a busy world
- to encourage inquisitive engagement with, and reflection on, the teachings of the Holy Bible

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer (also using sign language) and the blessings in common use and inviting them to engage with these prayers and blessings during collective worship.
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection

Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement. In accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988, each school must provide a broadly Christian act of collective worship for all pupils every day. It should be “Inclusive, invitational and inspiring”(CEECO CW guidance document May 2021) This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class.

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors in consultation with the Collective Worship Leader. Our school plans systematically and cohesively using the Canterbury Diocese Collective Worship Planning which is adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and enables continuity. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies: This includes discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

We meet as a whole school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the school hall. Members of the local church support worship on Wednesdays. On other days worship is conducted in class.

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities (eg: music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT).

Our worship consists of:

- Gather and greeting– we welcome the community with music and offer Peace.
- Engage – we share a bible reading, film, story of Christian life/values
- Respond -- pupils discuss, share , reflect , pray, sing
- Send – we share the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with a final prayer a sending out and music.

Worship also includes opportunities to celebrate pupils who are living our Christian values in their daily lives around the school. We are able to acknowledge and reward children for being the best they can be both in and out of school.

Expectations of pupils:

Pupils are expected to enter Collective Worship quietly and to show respect throughout the worship.

Developing Worship

The school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of collect worship. The Collective Worship Leader accesses a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.

Self-assessment and Inspection

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to

grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis

Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Canterbury.

Parental Withdrawal

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none and is in no way intended to evangelise or proselytise.

We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship on grounds of conscience. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents. Alternative arrangements would be made according to the unique circumstances of any child who was then withdrawn.

Date of validation..... Signed.....

Chair of Governors

Date of review..... Signed.....

Chair of Governors