

WORSHIP POLICY

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Signed:

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Guidelines for Collective Worship and Spirituality

"Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response...and develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes."

Circular 1/94: para 50.

Aims

As a Voluntary Aided Church of England School within the Diocese of Chichester we will always strive to enable every child to attain the highest possible standards in his/her education. We plan to achieve this through the following aims.

We will:

- encourage a sense of spirituality within our Christian values
- nurture each individual
- accept each other within a caring and loving community
- aspire to the highest standards of teaching and learning within a creative curriculum
- provide a safe environment
- Understand the world in which we live
- fully develop effective links with the home, the church and the wider community

The Principles of worship

- Collective Worship is inclusive. It is an activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain
- It can foster a sense of fellowship by bringing pupils, staff, governors and parents, whenever possible, together
- It introduces pupils to aspects of religious worship in an open, honest atmosphere, whilst respecting the integrity of all present
- It can offer experiences and opportunities that allow participants to explore aspects of worship, and encourage a development of the spiritual dimension of life
- It provides opportunities to invite members of the wider community into school and to celebrate special occasions, allowing time to think, reflect upon and reaffirm Christian and moral values
- It encourages children to develop a sense of awe and wonder about the world about them
- It provides opportunities for the exploration of a wide range of social, environmental and interpersonal issues in a Christian framework
- It celebrates and reflects the Anglican foundation of the school
- Parents retain the right to withdraw their child following discussion with the Head

Collective Worship and the Law

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

- A daily Act of Worship for all pupils
- Collective worship in Church schools must be in accordance with the school's trust deed

Organisation

Whole school Collective Worship last for approximately 15/20 minutes and is held in the school hall on:

- Mondays at 9.10 – led by Head Teacher
- Tuesdays at 10.10\10.30 KS2 - Worship led by clergy or members of St Peter's Church/Key Stage 1 Birthday celebration
- Wednesdays at 10.10 – Staff led Collective Worship
- Thursdays at 10.10 – Sung Worship and praise
- Fridays at 10.30 – Celebration Assembly

Content/ planning

- Collective worship reflects the Christian basis of St Peter's. It is used as a time of encouraging links between the school and the wider community
- The Collective Worship Subject Leader and Clergy from St Peter's Church are responsible for drawing up medium and long term plans and overviews of worship themes. These follow the themes set down by the Diocese but are flexible enough to allow for addressing wider issues where necessary
- The themes reflect the nature of this Church of England school as well as events and festivals during the Christian year. It also addresses topical events in the world, Christian values and inspirational people. Occasionally the theme of individual assemblies is more secular, but will encourage awe and wonder and give an opportunity to respond on a spiritual level
- The Music Subject Leader collaborates with those involved so the songs reflect the given theme where possible
- Children are involved in planning and leading Collective Worship, and are given opportunities to discuss the quality and impact with the CW subject leader and other members of the school community
- Visitors are encouraged in order to enrich these times of Collective Worship. They are given precise instructions concerning age and ability of pupils, purpose of visit and appropriate delivery

Displays

Displays are used to reflect and inspire collective and individual responses to worship. They might reflect the Christian calendar, the role of the Church in society, current events or invite interaction as a "prayer space".

Monitoring and recording

Collective Worship is monitored several times a year through discussion and dialogue with staff, governors, and children. All comments are reflected on and acted upon where appropriate.

Approaches

Collective Worship is first and foremost for the spiritual benefit of the pupils as well as the adults working in the school community. It is a shared activity that allows a variety of individual and group responses. Those leading are encouraged to use a variety of resources that will appeal to the different styles that children respond to. These include the use of artefacts, ICT, drama, storytelling, video, music and Biblical material as well as a variety of other stimuli.

There are special act of worships that takes place in the church for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and St Peter's Day to celebrate major festivals.

What is spirituality?

Spirituality could be described as:

- The search for meaning
- The essence of being
- Respect
- Reflection
- The celebration of difference
- Inner peace
- A sense of awe and wonder

How do we develop spirituality across the school?

Ways in which we help children to value and develop their imagination and ability to reflect include:

- Valuing children's feelings and their right to express themselves appropriately as an individual
- Giving time for reflection and expression in all areas
- Developing skills of being physically still but alert
- Providing opportunities to use all senses
- Developing individual self-confidence through expressing thoughts and feelings in a variety of ways
- Appreciating that silence can be a means of communication
- Celebrating and sharing gifts and achievement
- Giving children time to reflect on, ask and discuss "big questions" as well as providing experiences of awe and wonder

We use:

- A creative curriculum: Through our emphasis on creativity across the curriculum, there is time to think, explore, imagine and develop ideas
- opportunities in the classroom- sometimes planned, sometimes spontaneous, to point out "wow" moments, or to develop values
- SMSC: Circle time allows children to grow in confidence to express their own ideas as well as appreciating and understanding the feelings of others
- thinking skills, that allow children to develop a creative approach to problem solving, speaking and listening and collaborating with others
- Fundraising: The children are encouraged to think of others
- Displays: These value children's work as well as providing opportunities for reflection on the theme of the collective worship, R.E., topic, Science etc.

Cross curricular links

Throughout the curriculum there are opportunities for children to develop holistically- academically, culturally, socially and spiritually. Core values are present within the classroom as well as in Worship time, in how they are encouraged to interact with each other as well as in the way they approach their learning.