

Appendix 2

An Exemplar Collective Worship Policy for a CE School

Rationale

Collective worship at _____ Church of England School takes place daily in accordance with the provisions of the Schools Standards and Framework Act, 1998.

The content of all our acts of collective worship is in accordance with the beliefs and practices of the Anglican Church (as required by the Trust Deed and the instrument of governance of this Church of England School).

This policy was agreed by the governing body on _____ and will be reviewed within four years. The governors are grateful for the help of _____ in preparing this document. Visitors to the school who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of this policy.

Aims of collective worship

In the words of former Archbishop Runcie we seek through collective worship “to nourish those of the faith, encourage those of other faiths and to challenge those of no faith”.

Specifically we aim:

To provide opportunities for students and staff to explore and celebrate the Christian values on which the school is based.

To introduce children to a variety of forms of worship. Seeking to reflect the rich diversity of experience in the Anglican (and other Christian) traditions locally and around the world.

To enable children and adults to approach the “threshold of worship” and particularly to support expressions of reverence, awe, wonder, gratitude, joy, serenity, contrition, expectation, assurance, respect etc.

To enable pupils to explore the use of silence for stilling, reflection and, as appropriate, prayer.

To heighten pupils’ awareness of questions relating to the ultimate mysteries of life and to explore the responses that have been made to these by people of faith.

To affirm the value and special gifts and status that Christians believe each person has in the sight of God.

Practicalities

The whole school including members of staff, meet together in the hall each afternoon after lunch except Wednesdays when class teachers conduct worship in

their own rooms. Worship usually lasts between 10 and 15 minutes. The Friday worship includes a celebration of children's efforts and achievements in school and elsewhere. Parents, Governors and members of the church and local community often attend collective worship on Fridays and on special festivals.

Various people assist the head in conducting whole school worship. Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship. The incumbent or curate of the parish are frequently invited, as are members of charitable organisations offering their expertise to the school. (A list of contact addresses is included as an appendix). Class teachers also lead whole school worship on occasions.

On Ascension Day, Harvest Festival, Advent, Christmas and other major festival days the whole school visits the church for an act of worship. At other times, including Mothering Sunday and St _____ 's Day, some staff and children take part in worship at the parish church. On appropriate occasions we use the Garden of Reflection in the school grounds for whole school or class worship.

Content and Approach

We are currently developing a four year plan for worship which can be found in the worship book in the staff room. The plan is based on half term themes (linked to SEAL) which are broken down into weekly sub themes. It will include

- links to the Church year
- Presentation of Bible stories
- Opportunities for children's participation
- Links to the school curriculum
- A variety of stimuli and media, including the creative arts
- Opportunities to revisit different themes progressively and developmentally

All worship leaders are required to:

- respect the life choices of children and other participants particularly being sensitive to those of the Christian faith, or of other faiths or with no faith.
- use the collective worship plan unless there are special circumstances which make this inappropriate
- ensure that their worship addresses the needs, interests, backgrounds and abilities of the children and uses a variety of aesthetic materials and other stimuli and active learning styles

- provide opportunities for participation by the children, including regular opportunities for them to lead parts of worship children to lead in worship
- include opportunities for appropriate prayer and reflection
- complete a brief record of their worship with suggestions, as appropriate, for how it may be improved next time (by amending the planning documents)

Resources

The school budget includes a sum of £_____ to be used annually for resourcing collective worship. Visual aids (artefacts, posters and books) are purchased regularly and are catalogued and stored in the staff room. The updated list of resources is included in the worship book.

Evaluation and Review

The 2 Governors with oversight of collective worship will be appointed annually and will meet each term with the worship coordinator to monitor

- The implementation of this policy
- The ongoing development of the 4 year plan
- The records for worship
- The issues relating to collective worship in the school development plan (SDP)

Each year these governors seek the views of stakeholders to evaluate the impact of worship and to identify ideas for future development through:

- 2 meetings with the school council
- Informal conversations with parents at parents evenings
- Informal conversations with parents after the Friday worship
- The parents questionnaire
- Seeking the views of staff and visiting worship leaders
- Through the worship evaluation forms completed by Year 6 children

Foundation governors also participate in collective worship regularly.

The foundation governors with the collective worship coordinator report annually to the full governing body and propose any necessary amendments to the SDP including the need for staff development or training.

Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Should any parent make such a request, appropriate arrangements will be made for the supervision of the children following consultation. Parents who have any concerns about the provision and practice of collective worship are encouraged to contact the head teacher to discuss this. The headteacher will report to the governors the numbers (but not the names) of any children who are withdrawn and the arrangements that have been made for their supervision.

In schools with sixth forms only:

Sixth form students have the right to withdraw from collective worship. Students who are considering this are advised to discuss this with their Head of House. As a courtesy, they are requested to make any withdrawal formally in writing to the Headteacher.