

Wilton and Barford CE VC Primary School



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Introduction

This document is written in relation to the requirements of the 1988 Act for Collective Worship and the school's Teaching and Learning Policy. It was created by the Head Teacher. It is intended as an outline to the guiding principles by which staff will conduct Collective Worship. The implementation of our policy is the shared responsibility of all teaching staff.

Philosophy

At Wilton and Barford CE VC Primary School worship is an important part of the school day. It gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to reflect and worship. It is attended by all pupils, staff and any visitors in the school.

Specific Aims

- To give expression to the Christian values which underpin the school's existence as a community;
- To heighten the children's awareness of questions relating to the ultimate mysteries of life and of the beliefs held by themselves and others;
- To make explicit and celebrate what has meaning, value and purpose for all children as individuals, for the whole school and for the wider community;
- To gain an understanding of Christianity and other religious faiths in the school and the wider community;
- To engage in awe, wonder and understanding of difference and diversity of religion and culture in the school community;
- To support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.
- To relate the requirements of the 1988 Act for Collective worship to the needs of the pupils in the school.

Legal Requirements

1. All pupils, apart from those whose parents exercise the right of withdrawal, must, on each day, take part in a collective act of worship.
2. Acts of collective worship may take place at any time of the school day.
3. Pupils may be grouped in various ways, as a whole school, phase groups or classes.
4. The acts of collective worship should be appropriate for all pupils, in that they should take into account pupils' ages, stages of development, and social, cultural and family backgrounds.
5. Most acts of collective worship should be of a broadly Christian character.

DFEE Circular/94 legislation permits that the school can also have acts of collective worship which reflect the traditions of other religions and acts which contain elements from a number of different faiths. Even those acts of worship which are broadly Christian in character need not contain only Christian material. Section 7.1 of the Act is regarded as permitting some non Christian elements without depriving it of its Christian character.

Right of withdrawal

Assemblies are an important part of the life of our school and all children are expected to attend.

However, any parent/carer can request permission for their child to be excused from attending an act of Collective Worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. Although parents/carers do not need to explain or give reasons for their child to be excused, our school prospectus expresses the hope that parents/carers with queries over the delivery and content of Collective Worship at our school will discuss these with the Headteacher before exercising their right to withdraw pupils from such acts of worship. The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship.

Definition

Collective worship allows us all to reflect together and to share a sense of a special time and place.

General approaches

This may be achieved using a variety of stimuli as a focus for contemplation:

Stories, music, poems, props, artefacts, role play, pictures and the sharing of thoughts

- We aim to create an atmosphere conducive for collective worship; allowing time and space for "a pause for thought", and providing the appropriate context for this time.
- We expect all participants to show respect and reverence for our place of worship through conduct, reflection and celebration of shared values.
- We believe that collective worship should provide experiences which contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the individual as well as fulfilling the legal requirements.
- As a school we emphasise the personal growth of the individual and encourage active participation in promoting the shared values and ethos of our school community.
- We aim to pause for a few moments each morning and at the end of the day for reflection and prayer.

Organisation

Worship is grouped around a central value and are the focus for the term. The worship program ensures that assemblies build upon each other and are inter-linked in to allow the children to reflect upon a common value throughout the week and over the term. The umbrella theme is sub-divided into weekly themes, which each assembly leader builds upon during the Key Stage assemblies and class assemblies. The songs that are taught in choral singing link with the theme of the week or class assembly, whichever is more appropriate.

Monday	"Value of the week" and "Open the Book"	Whole School
Tuesday	"Clergy Worship"	Whole school
Wednesday	Teacher led worship/class parent Assembly	Whole School
Thursday	Hymn Practice and worship	Teacher
Friday	"Celebration Assembly"	Whole School

After each assembly, the leader must file their worship notes in the 'Worship File' which is kept in the Staff room.

Reflection and worship is encouraged to take place daily in all classrooms through the joining together for Grace, End of Day prayer and the effective use of the Worship Table. These are in a prominent position in all classes and are treated with respect and reflect the curriculum and the ethos of the school. Children reflect upon term's worship at the end of the term either individually (KS2) through the completion of a "Reflection Diary" or in groups in KS1.

The Bridge runs a weekly prayer club at lunch time which is linked to the term's worship values. All KS2 children are welcome at this drop in lunchtime club where they can reflect and pray.

Sunday, 18 January 2015

Children's Role in leading and evaluation worship

As a church school we believe it is important that children play an active role in worship. We encourage participation and response through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered.

Before	During	After
Setting up Song words Selecting and setting up laptop Putting out chairs/benches Preparing worship table	Gathering Singing as others arrive Lighting worship candle Saying a welcoming sentence / greeting	Clearing up Supervising children leaving Holding doors Putting away equipment and chairs
Welcoming Greeting children at door Meeting visitors and helping them set up Adding visitor's name to PowerPoint welcome slide	Engaging Introduce a visitor Drama Holding props Telling or reading a story Showing a video-clip	Recording Asking teacher who led CW to fill worship file e.g. theme, content and song Doing it themselves
Planning Choosing music / songs Finding or writing prayers Preparing video / visual material Training for new helpers	Responding Asking and answering questions Reading or saying prayers Singing or playing instruments Leading actions or signing to songs	Evaluating Use a simple grid for evaluation Showing grid to School Council, governors, etc Reporting back to School Council
Leading Plan worship with support of adult or use Flippin Praise	Leading Lead worship	Leading Evaluate worship
	Sending Blowing candle out Announcing final song Saying the closing prayer	

Visitors and Visits

Members of the local community lead "Open the Book" fortnightly. The local rector leads weekly worship on a Tuesday. The Bridge, a local Christian charity, leads termly assemblies. The school also visits the local church for community worship at the end of each term. Through Open the Book we aim to strengthen our links within the local parish and community.

Resources

Values for Life File is kept in JN's office.

Assembly books of ideas, poems and stories etc. are kept in the Staff room.

CD's are kept in the hall. The Music Leader will advise accordingly if you need anything specific - music or songs.

Websites: www.teachernet.gov.uk
www.assemblies.org.uk
www.damaris.org/assemblies

Role of the Foundation Governor in Collective Worship

Ensure clear Christian leadership in all areas of the conduct of the school.

Role of the Ex-Officio Governor

Lead Commissioning service.

Lead collective worship.

Share church activities.

Chaplaincy - staff / parents / pupils.

Prayer.

Collective Worship Governor's Role

Monitoring of the planning and provision of worship is carried out on a regular basis. The foundation governors ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality. The governor with responsibility for Collective Worship is Mark Wood

The following are monitored by the Foundation governors:

- The clear policy, as agreed by governors, is upholding the school ethos statement
- The planning of worship is reflecting the school ethos statement
- The agreed policy is implemented
- Worship is central to the life of the school
- Provision of worship is on a daily basis
- All staff are aware of the legal requirements for church schools
- Staff appointed are prepared to support the Christian ethos of the school in terms of Collective Worship
- Well balanced themes are planned throughout the year
- Links are made with the local parish and community
- Resources are available to support worship
- Finances are available to develop school worship

A report to the governing body is made annually

Evaluating

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. The school council regularly seeks the views of their classmates and reports these findings to the school council.

Monitoring

Governors monitor the provision of collective worship, by asking a representative to attend one worship per old term and then feeding back to the governing body. Governors ensure that collective worship is reviewed on a regular basis.

CHILD PROTECTION STATEMENT

At Wilton and Barford Primary School, we believe that every child has the right to be safe and therefore to be cared for in a way that ensures her/his safety and meets her/his individual needs. We recognise that all children need protection at all times from anything or anyone that may cause them harm and work together following the Child Protection Policy to ensure this. We respect all members of the school's community and treat information with confidentiality

Sunday, 18 January 2015