

Collective Worship Policy

As a caring Church School, we are committed to the Christian values that develop a distinctive ethos underpinning the way in which we carry out our work and the way in which our children learn. We wholeheartedly adopt the “Every Child Matters” agenda and believe that we can inspire all members of our school community to achieve their full potential.

At our school we aim to:

- Develop Christian values and principles.
- Help all members of our school community in achieving to their potential.
- Enable each child to develop an enquiring mind with the ability to question and discuss, so that they become independent, life-long learners.
- Provide an environment which is dedicated to promoting high standards of achievement for all and a love of learning which will be life-long and achieved within a Christian context

1 Objectives

1.1 Our objectives in providing collective worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- To provide an opportunity for children to consider the meaning and purpose of life;
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- To encourage participation and response;
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- To provide an opportunity for calm reflection.

2 Collective Worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion the purpose of which is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the school coming together, as a class, key stage or whole school and participating together.

2.2 As a joint Church of England and Methodist school we base our acts of worship on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct them in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.3 While the acts of worship in school are Christian in nature we also reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the local and wider community.

3 Organisation of Collective Worship

3.1 We hold a daily assembly and within this time, the act of collective worship takes place.

3.2 We conduct the act of collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that this time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We expect them to be quiet, thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and song/hymns.

We create an appropriate atmosphere through music and a candle and other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. The expectations for behaviour during collective worship has been developed with the children and these statements are always displayed.

- 3.3 The headteacher, members of staff and the local clergy usually conduct our collective worship. These may also include contributions from the pupils and visitors to the school.
- 3.4 We invite parents, governors and the wider community to join the school in acts of collective worship.
- 3.5 We take the themes for our collective worship from the National Strategy 'Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning' and use the traditions of the Christian faith to develop understanding. We also reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We plan the themes in advance with representatives from St Lawrence's Church and Bardney Methodist Church. Sometimes the themes of our collective worship build on the topics that we teach as part of the curriculum.

4 The function of Assemblies within our school

- 4.1 Our assemblies reflect the achievement and learning of our children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by sharing their work with other children and raising issues that they have discussed in class. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. Assemblies play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school.
- 4.2 We invite parents and governors to join our Achievement Assemblies and also our special occasion acts of worship or services in school or at the Church. We value this as an important way of demonstrating home, school and community working together to support and celebrate pupils' achievements.

5 Right of withdrawal

- 5.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending collective worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- 5.2 The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

6 Monitoring and review

- 6.1 Monitoring is undertaken through gathering feedback from the pupils, clergy, parents and staff. The headteacher monitors the policy into practice and makes recommendations to the governors.

Date of Adoption: May 2015	Date of Review: May 2017
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