

TOCKWITH C. of E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Signed Chairman of Governors

Date.....

1. Worship in our school

Our school aims to be a place where pupils experience worship as a quality activity, important to the life of the school and to its religious character. It is one of the means whereby Christian values and principles may be reflected and affirmed, and God will be the focus of worship. We seek to be an important part of the work and mission of the parish. In addition, we should have close connections with the local parish and worshipping community, and enjoy its support and encouragement. In the same way, we should contribute to the life of the local worshipping community.

Collective worship is, therefore, an area of our school life that presents special opportunities to promote spiritual and religious development and should contribute to faith nurture, providing a means by which all pupils - both those of the faith and those from other backgrounds - may understand more about the Christian faith, while experiencing and learning about worship and what it means to those who take part.

Collective worship should play a central role in the life of our school and it should reflect the Christian vision, values and ethos we hold dear.

It should therefore:

- Be grounded in distinctively Christian teaching^[L]_[SEP]
- Be inclusive, engaging, inspiring, inclusive and accessible^[L]_[SEP]
- Be clearly visible in key school documents and on the school website^[L]_[SEP]
- Be well organised, resourced, planned and delivered^[L]_[SEP]
- Be effectively monitored and evaluated as part of the school's cycle of review.

Therefore, Collective Worship in our school should:

- Enable the school community to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition; ^[L]_[SEP]
- Share the central teachings of the Christian faith in order for the school community to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ; ^[L]_[SEP]
- Seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'no faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship; ^[L]_[SEP]
- Use a wide range of opportunities (such as celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth;
- Provide opportunities for the whole school community to address God directly through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit through acknowledging his presence, reflecting upon his character and giving Him praise and honour; ^[L]_[SEP]

- Encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework by learning more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ through worship; ^{[[L]]}_{SEP}
- Raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith;
- Explore the school's key Christian values and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God; ^{[[L]]}_{SEP}
- Encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally; ^{[[L]]}_{SEP}
- Seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence; ^{[[L]]}_{SEP}
- Develop a sense of community within the school, the locality, (e.g. local church) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions; ^{[[L]]}_{SEP}
- Provide an opportunity to bring personal needs and those of others before God in prayer

2. Responsibilities

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met. The Headteacher has the responsibility for organising and planning the worship, however, it can be delivered by clergy, child led groups, classes, visiting groups or individuals, other members of staff, governors and parents.

All those who lead collective worship should do so in a way that ensures that all present can take part with integrity. ^{[[L]]}_{SEP}

3. Documentation

Designated Governors will ensure that the school provides the following: ^{[[L]]}_{SEP}

- A clear and concise policy statement on Collective Worship including the following
 - Ethos statement
 - Aims and principles
 - The school's commitment to worship ^{[[L]]}_{SEP}
 - The centrality of worship to the life of the school
 - The school's commitment to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
 - How the school's worship will reflect its Anglican heritage
 - Where and when worship takes place
 - Links made with the local churches and the clergy
 - Advice to visitors and clergy when leading collective worship in the church school
 - The educational value of worship and the possible links made with other areas of the curriculum
 - Planning showing themes to be covered each term or year
 - Evidence of regular recording, monitoring & evaluation.

4. The shape of worship

Collective Worship will follow the following pattern:

1. Gathering – creating a distinct atmosphere and having a focus point (the altar)
2. Engaging – the main act of worship (Bible based with Christian teaching)
3. Responding – time for responses, reflection and thought
4. Sending – the ending of the act of worship (all are sent out to act on what has been explored)
(Music in the form of a hymn or worship song will be used)

Worship will follow this basic plan

- Monday – whole school Collective Worship
- Tuesday – whole school Collective worship
- Wednesdays – visit by local priest on alternate weeks/staff led worship (music based) on other Wednesdays
- Thursday – Class-based worship
- Friday – Celebration Assembly (parents invited)

5. The role of the Collective Worship Leader (Head Teacher)

The Collective Worship Leader (Head Teacher) will (or will delegate):

- Assist the staff fulfilling their legal responsibilities with respect to Collective Worship
- Ensure that collective worship maintains a high profile in the life of the school
- Plan a programme of worship for the year ^[L]_[SEP]
- Delegate as appropriate the planning & delivery of worship ^[L]_[SEP]
- Evaluate and review provision for Collective Worship with governors and staff.
- Delegate as appropriate the schools self-evaluation for SIAMS ^[L]_[SEP]
- Plan for the development of Collective Worship ^[L]_[SEP]
- Develop documentation for planning, monitoring, evaluating and recording acts of worship. ^[L]_[SEP]
- Develop an adequate range of resources for worship. ^[L]_[SEP]
- Attend relevant inset & disseminate information to staff ^[L]_[SEP]
- Lead a discussion on worship in a staff meeting ^[L]_[SEP]
- Liaise with a variety of people, including the parish clergy, diocesan advisers and visitors who can advise and support the delivery of Collective Worship. ^[L]_[SEP]

6. Withdrawal

Parents and guardians have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. If this right is exercised, the school will provide alternative, values based activities.

7. Evaluation

Collective Worship, its development, impact and effectiveness will be undertaken, or delegated, by the Head Teacher. This will be through reflection journals, class discussion and a Collective Worship Log. Matters arising from this will be discussed with the appropriate staff, actioned and evaluated.

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.
Psalm 105