



BISHOP CORNISH CHURCH OF ENGLAND V.A. PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

PHILOSOPHY

We aim, through our worship, to raise our hearts and minds to God, celebrating life's rich experience and the outpouring of God's love towards humanity through the life of Jesus. School worship is a time to acknowledge the infinitely larger world we inhabit and be touched, however fleetingly, by its mystery and wonder. We believe that this spiritual experience is important in the nurture and development of every child. We distinguish between coming together to share a common purpose (e.g. exchanging information about school activities and achievements [assembly] and gathering to acknowledge and reflect on God beyond and in us all [worship]). We feel, however, that it is important to celebrate achievement and the life of the school within the context of our reflections on the inspirational qualities of Christian beliefs and values.

Worship is one of the means whereby Christian values and principles may be reflected and affirmed. It provides an opportunity for the spirituality of children to find expression and development. Our worship reflects the Anglican foundation of the school, and is based on scripture and creeds.

We seek to contribute to the spiritual and moral development of all pupils, regardless of their own religious commitment, through a well-planned policy for school worship, carefully put into practice.

Worship provides experiences for those not committed to religious beliefs without violating the integrity of those who have religious beliefs. Christian beliefs are used in ways that are inclusive rather than in ways that appear to proselytise. School worship should be an affirmation and celebration of the values and the Christian ethos of the school.

Assembly provides a time for the family of the school to meet together, staff and pupils, to celebrate success, share problems, and give information.

AIMS

- All acts of worship will be Christian.
- To encourage a sense of unity and identity both among pupils and staff by taking part in a whole-school act of worship.
- To provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.
- To encourage the children to participate and respond whether through active presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered.
- To give opportunity for reflection, to create a sense of awe and wonder, and to provide opportunities for spiritual growth.

- To meet the needs of all participants.
- To reflect the ethos and aims of the school and promote shared values.
- To have a balance of themes over the year and a variety of approach in accordance with the Anglican foundation of the school.
- To centre on the needs of the children, especially at times when they experience loss, e.g. death of grandparents.
- To encourage a sense of awe and wonder about ourselves, and our world.
- To contribute to the family feeling in the school, and allow new members of the school community the opportunity to identify with the school and develop a community spirit.
- To offer children and staff the opportunity to address the important questions about the meaning of life and existence and to put their trust in God.

APPROACHES

In a Church school, as well as expressing the Christian faith of the leaders, collective worship should involve and interest all members of the school community in other people's and their own response to God. Children will need opportunities to learn about different forms and types of worship by participation in them, for within a school every activity must have an educational purpose.

This implies that there will be times when the worship will be quiet, contemplative and serene; at other times it will involve loud music, laughter drama and dance. The mixture needs to be creative and varied, joyful and reverent, penitent and spirit-filled.

- The programme for the term is planned.
- A record is kept of collective worship stating the main teaching point.
- The Head Teacher, Deputy Head, Rector, and local clergy, along with other appropriate visitors, lead worship. These may include the Bishops and Cathedral staff. Visitors from the Mission Field, Third World and clergy/workers from other denomination churches are invited as often as practical to lead worship.
- It is important to use language appropriate to pupil's understanding, and ideas and images suitable for their ages and backgrounds.
- A communion service is held in school at least every term.
- Harvest, Christingle and Leavers' services are held in church every year.
- A passion play is presented in church biannually.
- The Lord's Prayer or The Grace is said or sung daily.
- The Liturgy, formal prayers and informal spontaneous prayers are offered.
- Opportunities for contemplation are included.

ORGANISATION

- Monday whole school worship, lead by head teacher
- Tuesday as Monday
- Wednesday Key Stage 2 music worship led by Deputy Head.
- Key Stage 1 music worship led by member staff.
- Thursday whole school worship led by Headteacher or clergy.

- Friday whole school worship when we celebrate achievements throughout the week and focus on, and draw together the weekly value/theme. This can involve recognising specific values such as compassion, love and service, displayed by the children in each class.
- Themes for each week are prepared for the beginning of each year by the Head Teacher. There are links with festivals, other curriculum areas and RE.
- Parents and members of local community and churches join us for Family Worship on Thursday as well as other acts of worship, communion services and services in church.
- Days may alter as convenient to visitors.
- Timings vary during the week.
- All teaching staff are expected to attend whole school assemblies to reinforce the belief in a whole family.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- The Education Act of 1988 requires all schools to provide a daily act of collective worship for all registered pupils.
- The Governors of the school are responsible for collective worship after consulting the head teacher. The head teacher is responsible for arranging acts of worship and ensuring that they take place.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated on the school website and in the prospectus but this is very unusual in our church school.
- The worship must reflect the teaching of the Church of England.
- Children from other faiths can be withdrawn by parental request.
- Aided schools which admit pupils of other faiths have to accept the responsibility for this decision, and understand the implications of this for the nature of the participation and presence of those pupils at acts of worship. Equally, non-Christian parents who have sought the admission of their children to a voluntary aided Church of England school should be aware of the expectations of the school and its policy on school worship.
- Voluntary aided schools expect teachers to participate in collective worship.
- The act of worship is not designated as curriculum time under regulations and should not be subsumed into any part of the curriculum.

RESOURCES

There is a range of resources, including books and music, for the leaders and planners to use.

- An altar, crosses, 'statues', candles, etc. in the hall provide a focal point for worship. There is a wide range of religious artefacts to use as a focus.
- The Head Teacher, Deputy Head, local clergy, along with other appropriate visitors, lead worship.
- Resources for communion services are available in school.
- The Holy Communion is celebrated in school at least once each term. The Parish Churches of SS Nicholas and Faith and St. Stephen's are regularly used for worship on important school occasions, e.g. Christingle, year end.

FUNDING/RESOURCES

- Although worship will not make particularly large demands on the school budget, provision will be made for music, song books, artefacts and other resources.
- We have resourced our communion service.
- Any request for provision will be treated as high priority.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

- Collective worship involves the local community.
- That collective worship reflects the ethos and aims of this Church of England voluntary aided school.
- A breadth and balance has been achieved over the term.
- That the collective worship has been matched to the age of the children and their varied levels of understanding and perception.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Collective worship is monitored by:

- The co-ordinator as part of the planning process.
- The co-ordinator and rector during their regular meetings.
- Staff after major services, e.g. communion, harvest, Easter.
- Governors and parents after public services.
- Children talking to the co-ordinator.
- Members of the Diocese in consultation with the Rector and Head Teacher.

Last reviewed May 2017
To be reviewed May 2018