

Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

This policy has been adopted by the governing body in consultation with the head teacher.

Collective worship is consistent with the aims and values of the school as expressed in the school prospectus. It is also in line with the Church of England foundation of the school.

This policy has been formulated within the guidelines provided by the diocese.

Aims and Objectives

As a Church of England foundation school we understand worship to be an expression of the 'worth-ship' of God as revealed in the person of Jesus Christ, creation and human experience.

Collective worship should help pupils:

- To celebrate all that is good and lovely, and the expression of thankfulness;
- To share what is meaningful and significant in life;
- To have time for silent reflection and exploration of inner space;
- To experience forms of worship which other people find helpful in their spiritual development, e.g. contemplation, dance, singing, silence...
- To be involved in a rich variety of forms and expression, such as drama, music, and story....
- To share common concerns and responsibilities.

From our Christian perspective:

- To affirm some aspect of God in his creativity, love and forgiveness;
- To celebrate his presence in prayer and praise;
- To respond through personal reflection

In giving expression to the 'worth-ship' of God, to enable pupils to have a growing sense of their own worth as unique individuals created in the image of God and redeemed by the saving death of Christ.

Organisation

There will be a daily act of collective worship. Once a week it will be led by the incumbent of the parish.

Major Christian festivals will be celebrated by special acts of worship in the parish church, such as Easter, Christmas and Harvest. There will also be an end of year service for our leavers in the parish church.

We recognise that there is a distinction between 'collective worship' and 'school assembly' in principle - this may not be so apparent in practice. However, as a Christian school we hold that the whole of life is part of our service to God. Therefore the more mundane aspects of school life, as well as sporting achievement, etc., are celebrated before God and offered to him.

The planning for this daily worship will be through a list of themes that the staff will deliver in a varying format. The songs will be chosen by children and staff and prayers will be encouraged from all stakeholders. This is recorded in the Collective worship file.

Parental right of withdrawal

The Education Reform Act 1988 makes provision for pupils and teachers to withdraw from collective worship. Parents wishing to exercise this right are invited/encouraged to talk the matter through with the headteacher fully.

Role of the Collective Worship Co-ordinator

The collective worship co-ordinator will oversee that there is a broad and balanced approach to collective worship. Will organise the programme of topics to be covered, using agreed sources. Will ensure that relevant artefacts are available. Will take responsibility to ensure that the place for the act of collective worship is conducive to the activity.

Conclusion

As a Christian school we believe that human beings are made in the image of God. Collective worship allows us to come together and celebrate that God has taught us, as well as challenge our actions. Enabling us to have a greater respect for God as Creator and Saviour; for the world which he made; and providing us with spiritual and moral guidance.

Policy agreed: October 2012

Review date: September 2016