



Shaw CofE Primary

Collective Worship Policy

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Aims

Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to, and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.

Within Collective Worship at our school it is important to us that, worship is a reflection of our Christian vision – **“To explore God’s amazing universe, valuing everyone and keeping children at the heart of all we do.”**

And our Biblical underpinning – **“For I know the plans I have for you – declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future.” JER 29:11.**

We aim to:-

- Provide opportunities to praise and reach out to God and experience His presence
- Contribute and enhance to the personal, moral and spiritual development of the individual
- Provide opportunities to experience awe and wonder, reflection and other activities to enhance spirituality
- Encourage individuals to explore and question their own beliefs and to consider the beliefs and feelings of others
- Affirm school values and foster a sense of fellowship by bringing pupils together as a community
- Build a community identity through which individuals feel valued
- Learn about how our values are distinctively Christian through the teachings of Jesus and other Bible stories and how these relate to our lives today
- Recognise the importance of prayer and provide daily opportunities for stillness, reflection and personal prayer
- Offer consideration of issues which are important in moral and religious context to the ethos of this school and the wider community

Statutory responsibility for securing the Act of Collective Worship

Procedures

‘All pupils in attendance at a community, foundation, or voluntary school shall on each day take part in an act of collective worship’

The arrangements for collective worship each day may provide a single act of worship for all pupils; or separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups. These arrangements shall be confirmed by the governing body, after consultation with the Headteacher.

Collective worship will normally take place on the school premises. However, should it be thought appropriate on special occasions to hold the act of worship away from the school building.

The Character of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is to be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character”, and within the traditions of the Church of England. Over a term the majority of acts of worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

Pupils who do not come from Christian families should be able to join in the daily act of collective worship, even though this would, in the main reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief. The collective worship should consider the circumstances relating to the family backgrounds and the ages and aptitudes of the pupils, which are relevant for determining the character of worship. The legislation states that we should be joining together in “collective” rather than “corporate worship”.

Collective worship at our school is related to the daily life, aspirations, and concerns of our pupils. The school seeks to preserve the integrity of all our members. We come together to affirm and celebrate experiences of worth to us all. Our collective worship is something special and separate from ordinary school activities and may be directly or indirectly concerned with reverence given to God.

Collective worship will be in accordance with any provisions of the trust deed relating to the school, which states that “The principal officiating minister shall have some superintendence of the religious and moral instruction of the scholars attending such school.” (1874)

The Right of Withdrawal

The School Standards and Framework Act reaffirms parents’ rights as established in the 1944 Education Act, to withdraw their children from collective worship if they wish, whether the school is designated community, foundation, or voluntary. If a parent wishes their child to be excused wholly or partly from an act of worship, then the school must comply. Parents do not have to state their reasons. The school continues to be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn by its parents from collective worship. Should this be the case, the Headteacher shall require a formal written request, after which, the necessary arrangements will be made for the supervision of that child.

Weekly Organisation

MONDAY - Whole school worship 10.10-10.30 – led by the Headteacher or Deputy

TUESDAY - Whole school worship 10.10-10.30 – led by the Vicar or the Open The Book Team

WEDNESDAY - In class worship 10.10-10.30 – led by a member of the SLT

THURSDAY - Whole school worship 10.10 – 10.30 – with a focus on singing.

FRIDAY Whole school worship celebration 10.10 – 10.30– led by the Headteacher of Deputy

Content

Worship themes are values based and planned on a termly basis in line with school priorities. These themes give regard to the Church calendar, special events in the Church or school life, the ethos of the school, and links with R.E. and PSHE. ‘Values for Life’ and “Roots and Fruits” are used to plan each worship and to develop the themes further in class, and can be supplemented by a range of other materials as required.

Creating a worshipful atmosphere

A worshipful atmosphere is created through music and a focus for reflection when the pupils enter. A display containing such articles as icons, artefacts, religious books and pictures shall be present.

Other resources may be used to enhance the act of collective worship. A candle is lit to signify the beginning of each worship and to remind children that the light is a symbol of Jesus. The person leading worship may lead an appropriate ‘call and response’ as part of the stilling. The candle is extinguished to close the worship as part of the sending out.

During worship, there is often the opportunity for whole school reflection and the children and adults participate in reflection together.

Visitors

Visitors are welcome to come to school to lead assemblies, and a regular contact exists between the school and the vicar and congregation of Christchurch. Necessary arrangements for visits will be made by the R.E. leader, Collective worship leader or Headteacher, and information about assembly themes, and celebrations made available. Regular visits also include the Maranatha church group and the ‘Open the Book’ team.

Children's contribution

Members of Year 6 Assembly Crew have the opportunity to plan and lead a class worship that has a clear Christian value as the focus for the worship. These children have the opportunity to lead in prayer during worship and take an active role in leading and monitoring worship.

Religious Education

There is provision within Religious Education to further develop, raise and explore spiritual and moral issues. Concerns and aspirations that are shared by the school are also given consideration. Religious Education has its own detailed policy documentation and as a school we have adopted the Wiltshire Agreed Syllabus for R. E. We use Discovery RE and Understanding Christianity as a basis for our planning.

The Whole School Ethos

The aims of the school are evident in both lessons and extra-curricular time. These are articulated through Mission Shaw. The values that the school believes in, and accepts, are promoted in the everyday life of the school, in its policies, relationships, daily routines, expectations and pastoral care. Collective worship is one of the vehicles for promoting and reaffirming values, but such values are also a natural part of school life.

Through the school's programme of Collective Worship and through the wider school curriculum the school fulfils, as far as it is able to do so, the statutory requirements of Collective Worship as stipulated in the School Standard and framework act 1998. Children are able to meet as a whole school, and in groups, to explore beliefs, values, aspirations, and expectations. These regular opportunities enable students to enhance their spiritual development, develop positive personal qualities with sensitivity to the needs of others, and to achieve sound personal relationships.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Pupils in the Assembly Crew assist with the preparation for Collective Worship. Through the writing and sharing of prayer, children across the school contribute to each collective worship.

The effectiveness of collective worship is evaluated throughout the year by staff, visiting members of the clergy and pupils including our Assembly Crew. Pupil voice through class assemblies is used to gauge pupil perceptions of collective worship and the impact of worship on the children's daily lives.