



Homefield V.C. Primary School

Collective Worship Policy 2018

Rationale

All acts of collective worship are in accordance with the founding Church of England Trust Deed and the Ethos Statement in the school's Instruments of Government. School collective worship is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian values and ethos of the school.

Collective worship is central to the life and purposes of our school. It is an inclusive act which encourages reflection in all present, of all faiths and none, rooted in the Christian understanding of God as Trinity.

PSALM 133:1 - OH, HOW WONDERFUL, HOW PLEASING IT IS WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE ALL COME TOGETHER AS ONE

Introduction

As a Church school we want our children to have the opportunity to learn to worship and to grow in their understanding of God and of themselves. Collective worship in our school is not simply a statutory duty. We believe that we are all made in the image of God and that worship should form an integral part of our lives.

We believe that at its heart collective worship should provide an opportunity for pupils and staff to come together to learn, reflect and pray, sing, share and communicate their feelings with one another and to God.

The Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of Collective Worship for all pupils which takes account of their age and aptitude (Education Reform Act 1988). Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. Since this is a church school, however, collective worship is central to its life and work and is regarded as a very important part of children's education.

Anglican Faith and Practice

We seek to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England therefore:

We use the Bible as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and make pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other passages of scripture. We provide opportunities to discover the value of silence and quiet reflection. We observe the major Christian festivals and celebrations.

In our school, we aim to provide a worship space which is attractive and well prepared with appropriate thought having been given to space, seating, ambience and music.

Connections with our local church

We foster links with St. Nicholas Church, Bradwell, involving the clergy team in leading collective worship and providing a relationship between church and school.

The Church of England sees itself as part of a global church and promotes ecumenism. At Homefield VC Primary School, we work to promote links with other local churches and Christian organisations and welcome their clergy and leaders as contributors to acts of collective worship. We recognise that while some of our pupils and families belong to Anglican churches, many worship regularly at churches of other Christian denominations and others from different faith backgrounds or none. We endeavour to ensure that everyone feels comfortable and accepted in worship without any pressure to participate inappropriately or to believe.

Rights and Responsibilities

As established by the 1944 Education Act and explained in the School Prospectus, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with the requirements of the Act.

The Foundation Governors at Homefield VC Primary have a particular responsibility to:

- Uphold the ethos of the school
- In consultation with the Headteacher, make sure that a daily act of collective worship takes place.
- Monitor the development of the school's Christian distinctiveness.

Aims and Purpose

Through collective worship in our school we aim to:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- Introduce children to Christian language, symbolism and major Christian celebrations.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to some well known Christian prayers, e.g. Lord's Prayer
- Strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school
- Celebrate the gifts that each person brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God
- Encourage reflection on the puzzling questions that life poses and response to the wonder and mystery of the world around us
- Foster a concern for others within the school and the wider world
- Foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.
- Enable children to explore their own beliefs.

Organisation

Groupings for worship

Collective Worship will be undertaken in a range of ways – these will include whole school, Key Stage and class based. The nature of the worship, the location and the theme of worship will determine which of these groupings shall be used. All of these groupings will be used through the school year when appropriate.

The timing of collective worship

Whole school collective worship will usually take place at 9:00am-9:20am. Class based collective worship will vary depending on individual class time tables.

Who Leads

All members of the teaching staff are part of a rota to lead collective worship. Children, teaching assistants and other stake holders are invited to lead throughout the year. The clergy team lead one session of collective worship per week. This alternates between the church and school.

Planning

An annual calendar of themes is planned for acts of collective worship; items from the church calendar are used where appropriate.

Short term plans consist of a weekly planning grid so that teachers are aware of what has been covered previously. When needed this grid is planned in advance. At other times it is a living document that grows throughout the week.

Content

Collective worship will generally follow the structure below and include the school prayer:

- **Gather**
Coming in to music, lighting of the candle, call and response
- **Engage**
Story, music, visual aids, drama, puppets, quizzes or activities.
- **Respond**
Reflection, prayer, discussion, questioning or singing
- **Send**
Prayer, blowing out of the candle or final thought

Any whole school notices will be given at the start of the session before the act of collective worship begins. All notices will be positive.

On a Monday, this is our Singing Assembly, where the hymn for the week is introduced and taught.

On a Friday, collective worship will take the form of 'Golden Assembly'. This is a celebration of the children's work through the week and an opportunity to recognise individual achievements.

Resources

The budget for Collective Worship is distinct from the budget for Religious Education. There is a wide selection of assembly books and artefacts which we regularly update and improve. We also subscribe to online sites that provide collective worship material. We have an extensive collection of CDs which are used to provide suitable music as children enter and leave the hall as well as to accompany singing. We have access to the Diocesan of Norwich Resource Centre.

Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development

We recognise that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others.

Worship Committee

At Homefield VC Primary School we have a committee made up of children from key stage 1 and 2, the Collective Worship Coordinator and a Foundation Governor. This committee meets to discuss issues around collective worship and suggesting ways that it can be improved. They act as a voice for the wider school community and are also responsible for leading regular acts of collective worship for the whole school.

Monitoring and Evaluation

We monitor and evaluate Collective Worship by keeping records of Collective Worship and informally questioning adults and children as to their views on its effectiveness. More formally, Governors are invited in to monitor collective worship and record their findings. Feedback is shared and any action points implemented, The coordinator and others will regularly observe and monitor acts of Collective Worship in line with this policy.

Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs when appropriate. As when teachers prepare lessons, worship leaders take account of different learning styles and aim to present materials using multi-sensory approaches.

Implementation of Policy

The Headteacher as Collective Worship Coordinator is responsible for this policy which will be reviewed as needed. Its implementation is the responsibility of all those planning and leading Collective Worship.

This policy was written in February 2018 and taken to Governors.

This policy will be reviewed in 2020 unless government legislation requires an earlier update.

Signed: (Headteacher)

Signed: (Chair of Governors)

Appendix 1

School Ethos Statement

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Churches at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.