

St. George's Church of England Primary School

Policy for Collective Worship

The following policy reflects the consensus of opinion of the staff at St. George's Church of England Primary School and had been reviewed by the Religious Education and Collective Worship subject lead.

Religious Education in our school is taught through the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus. This policy has been drawn up as a result of staff discussion, and has the full agreement of the Governing Body. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the Head Teacher in conjunction with the R.E. and Collective Worship subject lead and all members of staff.

The 1988 Education Reform Act, modified by the Education Act 1993 requires all schools should provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. The majority of worships each term should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. Collective worship should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular denomination.

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- ensuring that the Foundation of the school is honoured and that the worship policy is firmly based on the legal requirement in Anglican schools for worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and will, therefore, be wholly Christian in character.
- Ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored by the Reverend Martyn Taylor who is the named Governor.
- Working in conjunction with the Section 48 Inspector when the school is undergoing its Church School Inspection alongside the Section 5 Inspection by OfSTED.

The **Headteacher** has responsibility for ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with.

The School Development Plan includes an action plan for Religious Education and Collective Worship which gives an indication of the intentions and arrangements for review concerning the following:

- Themes and approaches
- Staff training and support
- Development of resources
- Pupil participation and response

Aims and Principles

The ethos of our school is reflected in and expressed through Collective Worship. Collective worship in our school aims 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, whether 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.

The following principles guide our approach to Collective Worship:

- Collective Worship should have God at the centre;
- Collective Worship should have a sense of purpose;
- Collective Worship should provide experiences within which pupils' spiritual development may flourish;
- Collective Worship should reinforce the Religious Education of all pupils;
- Collective Worship should be shaped to the needs of the school (time, place, content, style);
- We should provide a varied pattern of worship to broaden pupils' experience of its different forms;
- Collective Worship should recognise that the school includes children from different religious and non-religious backgrounds;
- During Collective Worship some will be worshipping and some will be experiencing something approaching worship; others will be finding out what it is like to worship by being with those who are.

Objectives

The objectives of Collective Worship are to:

- affirm the Christian faith and the Christian belief of Jesus as Son of God;
- introduce pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement and prayer;
- create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere in worship, including the manner of entry and exit;
- encourage in children a thoughtful and reflective attitude, to use silence for reflection and contemplation and help pupils experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness;
- raise pupils' curiosity about the ultimate mysteries of life;
- enable pupils to learn about and consider in depth Christian teaching, Christian festivals and biblical material;
- help pupils appreciate that we are stewards of God's world;
- enable pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to those of others and show respect towards any differences of belief;
- enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- help children distinguish between right and wrong;
- affirm pupils' personal worth and responsibility;
- celebrate individual and collective achievements;
- develop a sense of community within the school;
- celebrate religious festivals and special occasions within the Christian calendar;
- enable children to plan and lead worship.

Organisation

Daily acts of Collective Worship will take place in the school hall other than class worship times which take place in the classroom or on special occasions when we will celebrate at St. George's Church. Each week the worship follows a planned theme. The themes are planned a term in advance. The structure of worship may include music, drama, and a song of praise, a story or talk, pupils interacting with each other, a period of reflection and a prayer.

At the beginning of each term a worship is centred around our termly value (friendship, generosity, thankfulness, forgiveness, respect and courage for year one and community, peace, joy, hope, dignity and wisdom for year two of our rolling programme) and is celebrated at the end of each term.

The Rector leads Collective Worship on many 'Special days' within the Church's calendar, for example, Christmas, Epiphany, Candlemas, Easter. At Harvest, Christmas and Easter children lead the worship alongside the Rector at St. George's Church. On Wednesday mornings, the Rector or a member of the church team leads whole-school worship, with all members of staff in attendance.

Class Worships take place on a Thursday morning during the Spring term, with each class leading the Worship and sharing their work. Parents, relatives and friends of children within the year group are invited to share this very special time with the whole school.

All classes take part in the Easter service and explore different parts of the Easter story. Pupils in Year 6 attend the Church Schools' Festival to share worship time with children from 11 other schools across the County.

The Religious Education and Collective Worship subject lead

The subject lead has responsibility for:

- * ensuring Collective Worship maintains a high profile in the School Development Plan;
- * supporting the Collective Worship Council in planning and evaluating Collective Worship (*UNCRC Articles 12, 14 & 15*)
- * keeping in touch with national developments in school worship;
- * acts in an advisory capacity, supporting colleagues.

At present the subject managers meet termly and every other term they meet with the Rectors from each parish. Monitoring and evaluating is an on-going process carried out on a termly basis so that effective review can take place.

Visitors to school

Our Bishop's Visitor joins with us for our special Worships and comes into school once a term to share with us the Bishop's letter with the children. We maintain strong links between the Church and the School and there is an open invite to any Church member who wishes to share in our worship times or join in leading the worship.

Global Awareness

Global awareness is timetabled into the worship throughout the year. Children's awareness of our global neighbours through worship reflects our commitment to caring for the people and planet and fostering a culture of treating all people with dignity and respect.

Multiculturalism

A variety of multicultural material is available throughout the school. Stories are shared and festivals celebrated in accordance with the major faiths represented within the school. Tolerance and understanding of other religions is encouraged.

Equal Opportunities

All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. The School Prospectus and Website informs parents of their right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship.

Conclusion

This policy has been written and agreed to fulfil the Children's Rights and Responsibilities as follows:

Article 1 - Everyone under 18 years of age has all the rights in this Convention.

Article 2 – The Convention applies to everyone, whatever their race, religion, abilities; whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from.

Article 3 – All organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child.

Article 12 – Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.

Article 13 – Children have the right to get and share information, as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others.

Article 14 – Children have the right to think and believe what they want, and to practice their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide their children on these matters.

Article 15 – Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

Article 22 – Children who come into a country as refugees should have the same rights as children born in that country.

Article 23 – Children who have any kind of disability should have special care and support, so that they can lead full and independent lives.

Article 28 – All children and young people have a right to a primary education, which should be free.

Article 29 – Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full.

Article 30 – Children have a right to learn and use the language and customs of their families, whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not.

Article 31 – All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.

Review

Policy approved 2020.