

ULLESTHORPE C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy WC3

Signed by the Governing Body:
Agreed by the Governing Body: July 2019
Review Date: Summer 2022 or earlier if required.



1. Introduction

1.1. This policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's mission statement 'Learn together, grow together, shine forever'. It supports and reinforces the aims of Ullesthorpe CE Primary School, valuing all children equally.

1.2. Collective worship happens within a Christian context and permeates the whole of the life of our school. It is an oasis in the school day when children meet together with staff in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is regarded as quality time and represents something separate from ordinary school routine.

Learn together, grow together, shine forever

In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so they will see the good things you do. Live so that they will praise your Father in heaven.' (Matthew 5: 16 International Children's Bible)

At Ullesthorpe CE Primary School we have an uncompromising commitment to valuing each member of our school community just as God values each one of his children. We recognise that both children and staff bring something special to the school and our job is to find it, nurture it and celebrate it.

We are of the opinion that if we learn together and grow together then we will shine forever and be a light for those around us. We will achieve this through:

- 'Living out' our Christian values (respect, perseverance, forgiveness, compassion, friendship, thankfulness and community).
- Nurturing a passion and thirst for learning.
- Building relationships with each other.
- Empowering one another to face life's challenges
- Modelling how to be active and responsible members of the community

Everyone has something of value to offer and our hope is that as a school with staff, children, parents and governors working closely together, we can be a positive influence in our community and in our world.

2. Legal Requirements

2.1. The legal requirement in Anglican schools is for worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England. The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum, which promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and society. All maintained schools must provide a daily act of collective worship for all registered pupils.

3. Religious Aspect

3.1. Collective worship:-

- Gives children and the staff the opportunity to enter into religious experiences on a daily basis. These experiences help them to learn about religious worship and provide a framework for later understanding.
- Fosters a reverential attitude to God
- Encourages children to consider fundamental questions about the purpose of our existence and about moral and ethical stances.
- Allows us to learn and celebrate values we hold to be important included our Christian values of respect, perseverance, forgiveness, compassion, friendship, thankfulness and community.
- Brings children and staff together, enabling them to experience the security of belonging to a community.
- Offers a source of interesting and thought provoking knowledge.
- Offers opportunity to express themselves through music, art, literature and drama.
- Makes an important contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

4. Aims

4.1. The following principles guide the approach to Collective Worship:

- There should be a sense of occasion.
- It should provide experiences to develop pupils' spiritual awareness.
- It should be a means of expressing the ethos and values of the school.
- It should be educational and contribute to the Religious Education of all pupils.
- It should be shaped to meet the needs of the school.
- It should provide a varied pattern of worship to broaden pupils' experiences.
- It should recognise people from different religious backgrounds.
- It should recognise that pupils will experience worship at a variety of levels.
- The school recognises that there should be time to reflect on world issues.

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5. Objectives

- To introduce the pupils to the practice of worship through music, art, poetry, story and prayer.
- To create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere conducive to worship.
- To encourage a thoughtful and reflective attitude.
- To help pupils to experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner calm.
- To enable pupils to use silence for reflection and contemplation.
- To raise pupil's curiosity about the ultimate mysteries of life.
- To enable pupils to understand Christian teaching, festivals and biblical materials.
- To enable pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to others.
- To appreciate we are carers of 'Gods' World.
- To enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To help pupils to distinguish right from wrong.
- To affirm pupils' personal worth and responsibility.
- To celebrate collective and individual achievement.
- To develop a sense of community within the school.
- To celebrate religious festivals and special occasions with specified worship.

6. Management of collective worship

6.1. The Governing body is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the collective worship policy is put into practice
- Engaging an appropriate inspector to carry out the SIAMS inspection of a church school.

6.2. The collective worship co-ordinator is responsible for:

- Managing the worship on a day to day basis and ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with
- Monitoring and evaluating of the policy

7. Organisation

| Day | Time | Who participates | Leader |
|-----------|-----------|------------------|---|
| Monday | 9:05-9.20 | Whole school | Teacher |
| Tuesday | 9:05-9.20 | Whole school | Teacher |
| Wednesday | 9:05-9.20 | Whole school | Teacher / class |
| Thursday | 9:05-9.20 | Whole school | Open the Book / visitor / executive principal |
| Friday | 9.05-9.20 | Whole school | Head of School (Celebration) |

Special acts of worship are celebrated in Church: for Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Parents, carers and friends are invited to Church Services and to class and celebration assemblies. Class assemblies are held by each class, each term.

Occasionally outside speakers will lead worship including the 'Open the Book' team. Each act of worship will include music, a song of praise, a story / talk / bible reading / drama and a prayer (often the Lord's Prayer) and a period of reflection.

Collective worship usually takes place in the school hall but can happen in classrooms or outside.

8. Elements of worship:

Collective worship will be inspiring, inclusive and invitational.

8.1. Atmosphere: The school recognises the importance of this in creating the right foundation for worship. Quiet and orderly behaviour when entering, leaving and during worship is expected. A covered table with a cross and trinity candle help to set the scene.

8.2. Music: Played at the beginning and end and occasionally during periods of quiet reflection.

8.3. Stories and talks: These are carefully chosen to match the theme. Stories of both a religious and secular nature may be used, along with personal anecdotes from pupils and teachers.

8.4. Songs: A wide variety of traditional and modern songs and hymns are learnt. The words are displayed on the wall-mounted screen.

8.5. Prayer and reflection: This is the most personal part of the assembly. Participation in prayer can not be imposed but we stress the importance of stillness, reflection and respect for others. Silence, read prayers, children's prayers, the Lord's Prayer and school prayers will be used. (A candle is lit to provide a focus for worship.)

8.6. Bible: Readings from the Bible and sacred books and writings of other faiths will be used where appropriate.

8.7. Presentation: In keeping with the reverent atmosphere use is also made of visual aids, artefacts, drama, demonstration and video.

8.8. In keeping with Anglican traditions, welcome words are said by the children at the start of each act of collective worship as the trinity candle is being lit. Collective worship ends with the words 'May the light of Christ shine in all our hearts. Amen' and the trinity candle is blown at as a sign that collective worship has finished. A coloured cloth on the worship table helps children to understand the seasons of the church year.

9. Planning

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9.1. The planning of collective worship is organised into themes provided by the Diocese Board of Education. The school also spend some time exploring the school mission statement and associated Christian values. Wherever possible we aim to make the themes relevant and appropriate to our school community.

10. Records and assessment

10.1. Themes for collective worship are on a rota prepared before each term and given to all teachers. Daily planning and evaluation sheets are completed by those leading worship and pupils. Assessment of collective worship is carried out by the Head teacher and incumbent in an informal manner through observation and dialogue. Staff meetings are used for discussion. The annual pupil and parent questionnaires should inform future delivery of collective worship.

11. Equal opportunities

11.1 All pupils have equal opportunities to take part in collective worship and to benefit from the experience. Parents / carers have the right to withdraw their child/ren from collective worship.

12. Multiculturalism

12.1 A variety of multicultural material is available within the RE resources. Stories are shared and festivals celebrated in accordance with different faiths. Tolerance and understanding of other religions is encouraged.

13. Role of the co-ordinator

- To review the school policy on collective worship ensuring that all staff are aware of and use the policy.
- To plan the overall programme of worship involving colleagues and visitors in worship.
- To advise on planning, ideas and resources and be responsible for ordering and maintaining resources.
- To ensure collective worship has a part in the Strategic School Development Plan.
- To monitor and evaluate collective worship.
- To keep up to date with recent publications, attend courses and disseminate information to the staff and arrange professional development.
- To liaise with the incumbent, governing body and Diocesan officers on matters relating to collective worship.