



St Patrick's Church of England

Primary School

Worship Policy

St Patrick's CE Primary School: Collective Worship policy

School Vision Statement

We want every child to feel valued and cared for and to understand that they are special to God, so that they can explore the world confidently, showing tolerance and respect towards others and with all the knowledge and skills needed to have a fulfilling life.

Rational

Collective Worship at St Patrick's Church of England Primary School takes place daily in accordance with the provisions of the Schools Standards and Framework Act, 1998.

The content of all our acts of Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of this Church of England School.

The policy has been prepared by the governors and head teacher who is the teacher co-ordinating Collective Worship (CW) and the Incumbent.

Aims

We seek always to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school and its care for all who work here. Children are helped to understand the meaning of Christian worship and we hope that believers will be able to share in it and that others will reach the 'threshold of worship'.

Our central aims of Collective Worship (CW) are;-

- To provide our pupils with regular opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer.
- To promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To celebrate the values and worth of this school and Christian community including the sharing of the gifts and talents of all our pupils.
- To help children develop respect and understanding both of the nature and language of Christian worship.
- To ensure that the family of the "whole school" actually come together for CW
- To help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others.

We support the broader curriculum through the use of the highest standards of music, art, drama, and literature. Collective worship is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life, to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our pupils.

Practicalities

The act of worship is a daily feature of the school day. Various people assist the Headteacher in conducting whole school worship. Visitors also play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship.

There is a lead CW which introduces the theme at the beginning of the week when everyone meets together. This theme is developed over the week in class CW and by staff in whole school CW. The church community support the programme of worship every week through Open the Book and the church organist leads hymn practice each week. There is also a celebration of children's achievements each week, where we have a school prayer and hymn that parents are invited to. Worship usually lasts approximately 20 minutes.

To celebrate Harvest Festival, Easter and sometimes other major festivals, the whole school visits the local parish church for an act of worship. Due to the poor heating conditions at the church it is not practical to undertake this type of CW in Winter which precludes Christmas or Advent visits. Such special acts of worship are therefore held in the school, with parents and other church congregation members always invited to attend.

Content and Approach

We have developed a range of themes and topics through which Collective Worship takes place. Themes for each half term are chosen and presented in a variety of ways.

Christian Values Explored:

Justice

Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right. Psalms 106:3

Thankfulness

Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalms 106:1

Hope

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13

Forgiveness

Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Luke 6:37

Trust

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.

Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Perseverance

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9

Friendship

Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31

Peace

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Matthew 5:9

Creation and Creativity

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. Romans 1:6

Wisdom

Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding Proverbs Proverbs 3:13

Compassion

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

Courage

Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

These themes are explored through a number of ways:

- Celebration of the major festivals of Christianity.
- Presentation of Bible stories, especially "Open the Book".
- Topical matters from the news or the locality.

- Literature with implicit or explicit religious teaching.
- Appreciation of the natural world and human activity.
- Appreciation of the talents, achievements and work of ourselves and others.
- Visitors who represent organisations who have a brief acceptable to the school.
- Prayer in different forms - formal, pupils' own, silence.
- Use of music, drama and other art forms.
- Appropriate artefacts and focal points (candle, cross, flowers etc.)
- Participation by the children.

Worship environment

CW in school nearly always takes place in the school hall, where the head teacher has created and dedicated a corner of this area towards depicting what this term's topic in CW is through wall display. The "focus table" is usually central to the pupils' worship and is used on a daily basis, although the actual format of CW in the school hall does tend to vary as to how the content and those leading it, may prefer. Older pupils are given responsibilities for CW preparation and quite often other pupils take a leading role in its delivery. Parents are encouraged to attend CW whenever it is practical, usually this is for the weekly celebration type worship but also for major celebrations such as Easter when Reverend Anne is involved. Only on special occasions is the local parish church utilised as part of our worship environment due to the accessibility.

Evaluation and Review

The headteacher and members of the governing body take time to observe CW in school and report to the headteacher and governors.

Planning of CW

This is done by the head teacher and staff on a termly basis. During the process of the CW evaluation meetings by governors these topics are often commented upon and discussion usually takes place regarding the impact that has been evident on the pupils.

The head teacher maintains a record of the termly plans for CW and takes into account any aspects of evaluation that may arise from the half yearly CW evaluative meetings involving school governors.

Those outside the school who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of this policy.

Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Should any parent present such a request(s), appropriate arrangements will be made for the supervision of the children following consultation. Parents who have concerns about provision and practice of our Collective Worship are encouraged to contact the head teacher.

Review Date: Summer 2023