

Wymeswold C of E Primary School

Collective Worship

Policy

December 2017

Review Date: December 2020

**Collective Worship Policy**

Introduction

This policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school’s vision and ethos. It supports and reinforces the aims of Wymeswold C of E Primary School, valuing children equally.

 Collective Worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school. It is a time in the school day when the children meet together with members of 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 special or separate from ordinary school routines.

School Assembly: is a gathering of the school community; it is often used to celebrate & focus on the life & values of the community itself.

 Collective Worship: is a gathering of a ‘collection’ of people of diverse, religious, agnostic and non-religious backgrounds and does not pre-suppose any particular religious commitment.

**Rationale**

Our school instrument of government states:

‘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 church 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. As an inclusive school seeking to provide an education of the highest quality in partnership with all who share our commitment to education, we promote moral and spiritual values which reflect both the Christian foundation of the school and our desire to work with all denominations, faiths and beliefs represented in our community.’

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society.

 All maintained Schools – including Church Schools – must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils.

Rationale – Religious / Educational

Through Collective Worship we:

* give children the opportunity to learn about praise and prayer.
* foster a reverential attitude to God.
* address moral issues.
* give children the opportunity to participate in religious worship.
* celebrate and learn about values we believe to be important.
* develop whole school common values and beliefs.
* make a contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

 **Aims**

“Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues & 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 & shared values & reinforce positive attitudes”. (DfEE 1994).

 At Wymeswold C of E Primary School our Collective Worship should:

* have a sense of occasion.
* provide experiences within which pupils’ spiritual development may flourish.
* be a means of expressing the ethos and values of the school.
* be educational & contribute to the Religious Education of all pupils.
* provide a varied pattern of worship to broaden pupils’ experience of its different forms.
* recognise that the school includes children from different religious and non-religious backgrounds.

We recognise that during Collective Worship some pupils will be worshipping, 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 status of Jesus as Son of God.
* Introduce pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, drama, movement and prayer.
* Create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere in assemblies, conducive to worship; including entering and leaving the hall.
* Encourage, in children, a thoughtful and reflective attitude.
* Help pupils experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness.
* Enable pupils to use silence for reflection and contemplation.
* Enable pupils to learn about & consider in depth Christian teaching, Christian festivals & biblical material.
* Enable pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to those of others.
* 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 with specified worship.

**Content**

Planning for Collective Worship is the responsibility of the Head teacher and discussed with staff and governors. All staff are involved in the planning of themes. The selection of music, songs and hymns reflects our values.

**Themes** are planned following the school values.

 They may:

* Have a specific religious base such as ‘Easter Week’
* Be concerned with common values held by religious & non-religious people alike such as ‘caring & sharing’.
* Be linked to World, national or local events

Links with R.E. and the Curriculum are incorporated wherever possible. The choice of story can link worship with current topic work. Assemblies can be followed up in the classroom by further discussion and emphasis throughout the day. There is often an overlap between CW and PSHCE.

**Elements of Worship**

**Atmosphere** is all important in creating the right foundation for Collective Worship. Quiet, orderly behaviour and respectful attitudes on entering, leaving and throughout the assembly are expected. Staff enhance the atmosphere by their presence and participation. A table with a cross and a candle help to set the scene.

**Music** is played at the beginning and end of the assembly, by children.

**Stories and talks** are carefully chosen to fulfil the objectives of Collective Worship. Stories of a religious or secular nature may be used whilst personal anecdote from pupils, teachers and visitors is effective in expressing that which is important in our own lives. Stories and talks are used to help children to understand themselves better, to develop empathy and to face up to moral issues.

**Songs** are chosen from a wide variety of traditional and modern hymns, where possible linked to the school values. Hymns and songs create the opportunity for children to express thought and feelings that are difficult to put into words. They provide a real source of pleasure.

 **Prayer and reflection** are the most personal part of an act of worship. Participation in prayer can never be imposed but we stress the need for stillness, reflection and respect for others. Silence, read prayers, The Lord’s Prayer, children’s prayers may be used. A large candle can be lit to provide focus for pupils’ thoughts. Reflection and thinking time are given some direction by the leader in order to concentrate pupils’ response.

**Scripture** sentences may be quoted from the Bible and, where appropriate, from sacred books and other writings of other world faiths. Longer passages may be used as readings.

**Presentation** sets the tone within the act of worship. In keeping with the reverent atmosphere, use is also made of visual aids, artefacts, drama and demonstration.

**Management of Collective Worship**

The Governing Body is responsible for:

Ensuring that the foundation deed of the school is honoured and that the Collective worship policy is firmly based upon the intentions set down.

Ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice.

Ensuring the SIAMs toolkit is up to date and the school ready for the SIAMs Inspection of a church school.

The CW/RE co-ordinator will work in close co-operation with the Headteacher, who has responsibility for managing the worship on a day to day basis, ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with.

 Role of the Collective Worship Co-ordinator

* To write the school’s policy for Collective Worship in consultation with the R.E. Co-ordinator and Foundation Governors.
* To ensure that all staff are aware of and use the policy document.
* To review the policy on a regular basis.
* To plan an overall balanced programme of worship for the year.
* To involve colleagues, pupils and visitors in worship.
* To advise on planning, ideas and resources.
* To ensure Collective Worship maintains a high profile in the School Action Plan.
* To monitor & evaluate Worship in all its forms within the school.
* To ensure school promotes religion through the display boards in the hall and in the entrance to the school.
* To arrange INSET for staff as necessary.
* To keep up to date with recent publications, attend Diocesan courses and disseminate information and feedback to staff.
* To liaise with the incumbent and Governing Body on matters relating to Collective Worship including church services.
* To report to the Governors.

 **School Development Plan**

The School Development Plan includes future developments for promoting our Christian Ethos including RE, Collective Worship, themes and resourcing.

 **Equal Opportunities**

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

 **Multiculturalism**

A variety of multicultural material is available throughout the school, including artefacts. Stories are shared and festivals celebrated in accordance with different faiths. Tolerance and understanding of other religions is encouraged.

**Organisation**

* Daily assemblies take place in our school hall.
* Each week the worship follows a planned pattern based on our school values.
* The structure of Collective Worship includes music, a song or hymn of praise, a story or talk and a prayer or quiet reflection.
* In addition the school worships in St Mary’s Church at least once a term.
* Clergy from St Mary’s & Wymeswold Methodist Church join us for Collective Worship regularly.
* Parents, Governors and members of the community are invited to join us for CW and Church Services.

 **Resources**

* Assembly books, religious artefacts and pictures etc.
* A candle, a cloth, PowerPoint presentation representing the Christian Season and a Wood Cross are used in CW.
* A selection of assembly songs and hymn books are available.
* The Projector/laptop are regularly used for hymns, support stories etc.
* A selection of CDs is available.
* Musical instruments are occasionally used in CW and CDs are used to accompany singing.

 **Assessment**

Assessment of Collective Worship is carried out jointly by the Headteacher, and all teaching staff. This may be done in an informal manner through discussion or in staff meeting time.

 During staff meetings discussions take place to evaluate Collective Worship, to agree future plans and to share information.

**Special Assemblies and visitors**

Special Assemblies are held for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and End of the School Year Leavers’ Service in St Mary’s. Parents are encouraged to attend Celebration Assemblies and the Leavers’ Service. Occasionally visitors and outside speakers will lead the assemblies.

**Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

A nominated Foundation Governor and the Headteacher are responsible for the monitoring and evaluating Worship and ensuring any action points are included in the School Development Plan.

This policy was agreed by Staff and Governors during the Autumn Term 2017 and will be reviewed as part of our Monitoring, Evaluation and Review Cycle in 2020.