

Draft Policy document 2009

Philosophy

..... C of E School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided/Controlled School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to..... It is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

At school we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our students Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. Collective Worship is integral to our Christian identity and sense of belonging to the world wide Church.

Aims

It is our aim at School that worship should:-

- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity respond to Christian language and symbolism
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity experience stillness and quiet
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- to help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.
- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Promote community cohesion
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- Support the social and emotional aspects of pupils learning (SEAL)

Legal Status of Collective Worship

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in Church. We also hold school Eucharist's on a regular basis (contact the Advisor for help with this)

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to deliver high quality acts of Collective Worship to fulfil this requirement.

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Governors who after consultation with the head teacher has appointed (a Collective Worship Co-coordinator/Chaplain/Head of Religious Education with special responsibility) with the responsibility for co-ordinating Collective Worship in the school

All acts of Collective Worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that pupils will have the opportunity to explore :-

- the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- the nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- the central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- the central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- the importance of prayer;
- the central symbols of Christianity;
- the cycle of the Church year.

Acts of Collective Worship atschool take into account the student's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds and reflect and celebrate the Christian faith foundation of the school.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow and Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to worship will be

marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image on the OHP, moment of silences and reflection etc

Rights of Withdrawal

At.....School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher/worship co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

This right of withdrawal doesn't extend to assemblies.

Organisation e.g.

Day	Person Leading	Main Hall	Alternative Hall
Monday	Head/SMT	Lower School	Year 11
Tuesday	Visitor	Upper School	Year 7
Wednesday	Head/SMT/Visitor	Sixth Form	Year 9
Thursday	Visitor	Lower School	Year 10
Friday	Head/SMT	Upper School	Year 8

Acts of collective worship in the alternative hall are normally led by the Head of Year but may also be led by tutors or students.

On those days when a tutor group is not in an Act of Collective Worship it is assumed that the form tutor will develop /discuss the theme for the week with the tutor group allowing :

- the form tutor will develop /discuss the theme for the week with the tutor group allowing students the opportunity to reflect on the ideas he/she has heard that week.
- students to develop /discuss the theme for the week with an opportunity to lead and reflect on the ideas heard that week.

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing, monitoring and evaluation.

The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Each week there is a theme for Collective worship. These are published at the beginning of the term and a reminder is included in the weekly notices sheet. It is expected that those leading worship that week will relate their worship to this theme and that Tutors will re-enforce this in reflections in tutor time. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the students will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that worship leaders may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

Each person leading worship is asked to plan their act of worship on a simple proforma. These include a space for evaluation. These planning sheets should be placed in the file in the staff room when completed as this then forms the schools record of worship. An open book is kept in the staff room for staff to write comments on the act of worship they have seen.

A Worship Committee meets once a term led by the worship co-ordinator. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last terms Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term.

The school seeks to involve students in the evaluation of collective worship. Members of the School Council regularly seek the views of their classmates and report these to the schools council and/or the worship committee.

....., one of the schools foundation governors has a role monitoring Collective worship at the school.

The school provided each Form/Tutor Group with the Diocese Resource **WOW for Worship Key Stage 3 & 4 Folders** (and supplementary resources) to support encourage and inspire student led acts of Collective Worship.

Resources

Resources for worship are kept by the worship co-ordinator in..... The school has a budget of to develop these resources. Extra Support for Collective Worship from the Diocese can be found on the website can be found on bducation.org. (contct Advisor for extra help and information)