



Policy for Collective Worship

Last Approved by Governing Body : October 2017

Date of next review : October 2020

Mission Statement

A Family of Creative Thinkers Aspiring to Excellence

Our Vision:

To develop outstanding citizens of the future who are innovative, resilient and committed to making a difference.

By:

- Teaching the importance of being compassionate and respectful to others and role modelling the Christian Values.
- Providing a creative curriculum that inspires a passion for learning and promotes excellence.
- Collaborating with others to support everyone to achieve their very best.
- Providing a nurturing and safe environment where children can be healthy and happy both physically and emotionally.
- Facilitating investigative learning opportunities through the development of the effective characteristics of learning.

Introduction

At St Anne's, worship is a special act or occasion with the purpose of showing reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', acts of collective worship at St Anne's are based around the Christian values. We do, however, conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school and the wider community. While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in school and the wider community.

Mission Statement

With God's love at our roots, we will nurture and guide every unique individual to grow in a caring and secure Christian environment."

Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff to:

- Foster a sense of Christian fellowship by bringing pupils, staff and members of the school community together to celebrate shared values of the school and important festivals throughout the year.
- Foster a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty, mystery and power of God's creation: to take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'.
- Reflect together upon the fundamental questions of life and to explore our own views and beliefs.
- Explore The Holy Trinity and how the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost can guide us.
- Celebrate, give thanks to God and explore emotions such as love, joy, hope, friendship, acceptance and forgiveness.
- Explore the Golden Rule and the Christian Values.
- Explore the British Values: Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty and Tolerance and their links to the Christian scripture, scriptures of other faiths, and to current world issues.
- Share our successes in personal, school and community life and enabling pupils to recognize their own value and worth.
- Experience being part of a caring Christian community and to develop pupils' confidence in their own traditions.
- Learn about other communities and the importance of valuing the traditions of others: experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.
- Work in accordance with the L.A. and Diocesan guidelines.

Expectations and National Legislation

The 1988 Education Act recommends that Collective Worship should be in addition to the 5% curriculum time devoted to RE and this is reinforced in the DfE Circular 1/94. Therefore, RE and Collective Worship are separate activities although they often reinforce each other.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship and will be notified of this right in the prospectus. It is their duty to notify the Head Teacher and the school will make alternative provision for the child. The Head Teacher will keep a record of children withdrawn from collective worship. Teachers and the Head Teacher retain their right not to participate in acts of worship.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place each day and is in accordance with our Collective worship programme. We take the themes of worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. We explore the British Values, their relationship to the Golden Rule and how these relate to current issues in the world around us. Sometimes the themes of acts of worship are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum or from interests and

questions raised by children in school. There are also elements of world religion celebrations to celebrate the diversity represented in our borough and the wider world.

Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome. Many different members of school staff, children, Clergy and local, or wider, community members may lead our assemblies.

Assemblies involve the whole school except on Wednesdays when children meet as a key stage.

Monday: Whole school collective worship: led by the Head Teacher or an Assistant Head Teacher.

Tuesday: Whole school collective worship: led by an Assistant Head Teacher and/or the children.

Wednesday: Key stage collective worship: led by staff on a rota basis.

Thursday: Whole school collective worship: led by Reverend Pat Gillian or a member of St Anne's Church community and the children - providing the children with an important and direct link to St Anne's church.

Friday: Whole school collective worship where parents are invited to join in. Celebration of achievements. Golden Child certificates awarded to recognise children displaying core Christian values, and other awards across school.

Assemblies take place at 10.45am with the exception of Fridays. This assembly is held in the morning at 9:15am and celebrates pupil achievement. Parents are invited to attend and the pupils have the opportunity to celebrate their achievements in school, at home and in the wider community.

Acts of worship also take place at St Anne's Church. These visits occur to celebrate major festivals in the Christian calendar e.g. Harvest, Christmas and Easter; and special events in a child's life e.g. starting and leaving school. Each class has the opportunity to participate in specially focused sessions at St Anne's Church: Experience Easter, Pentecost, Christmas and Harvest. The experiences are led by members of the church community and provide children with a deeper understanding and exploration of major Christian festivals.

Worship involves :

- Opportunities to talk about and to God.
- Opportunities to reflect upon our own religious beliefs.
- Creating a relaxed atmosphere and setting which reflects the theme of worship.

- Using appropriate resources, art work and artefacts.
- Using drama, quizzes, stories, dance, video, singing, music, speakers and prayer to convey a clear and simple message.
- Ensuring that assemblies are well planned and sensitive to the needs of all.
- Celebrating the beauty of God's creation through awe and wonder.
- Key moments in the Christian calendar.

Inclusion

At St Anne's we do our utmost to ensure that all pupils regardless of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation have equal access to all aspects of Collective worship. Our materials and resources are chosen to avoid stereotyping of any sort. Diversity is not portrayed as a problem to be overcome but as a rich resource to support the learning of all.

Resources

Resources are kept in the assembly cupboard and Head Teacher's office and the R.E. resources are also used to support Collective Worship.

The Role of the Head Teacher

The responsibility for arranging Collective Worship lies with the Head Teacher.

The role of the Collective Worship Leader

The leader is responsible for creating a timetable of themes to be explored each week, to maintain and buy suitable resources and to monitor the impact of collective worship on the school community.

Equal Opportunities

Provision is made for all children regardless of ability, disability, additional needs, medical conditions, gender, faith or ethnicity and reasonable adjustments are made in a range of ways. All children have a right to be treated equally and the school will take measures against those who do not abide by this ethos.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Policy and practice is monitored and evaluated on a regular basis. Monitoring may take the form of observations, planning scrutiny, questionnaires or discussions with children. Feedback will be given to all staff along with recommendations to inform future policy and planning.

The school leadership team have a responsibility to ensure the policy is embedded into the school provision and report to governors on the effectiveness of the policy.