



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



National Support School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership

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Our Mission Statement

We are a caring, village school which promotes Christian values, where each child receives a high standard of education that is broad, challenging, exciting and encourages creative thinking. We encourage every learner to be the best they can be, to reflect and plan the next steps in their learning journey, demonstrating a respect towards others and contributing to the communities of which they are a part.

Our Vision

Our vision is to nurture unique individuals who are outstanding learners, demonstrating wisdom, responsibility and kindness within their communities. Using the Good Samaritan as our role model, we know that loving others as we are loved is upmost for happy, healthy lives.

Values

Wise - we think wisely and are committed to learning. We relish and retain knowledge and value high standards. We have high expectations, high aspirations and enjoy challenge. Like the wise man who built his house upon the rocks (Matthew 7), we think creatively and use learning to make good decisions. We have firm foundations for our lives.

Responsible – we are responsible for ourselves – our well-being, our behaviour and our learning. We strive to be the best people we can be and the best person for others. We have a responsibility to others inside and out of school and at times need to be patient, tolerant and courageous in demonstrating this. As Noah had to step up when God asked him to, so must we. We are a school family whose strength is in our ability to work together. We know that perseverance and hard work will bring reward and that resilience is about coping with challenges positively.

Kind - we are kind. Through support, nurture and understanding we all flourish. Each one of us is unique – on the outside and inside. We value diversity and respect difference. There are hundreds and thousands, millions of us but God knows everyone and God knows me!

Curriculum Intent

Our curriculum is designed around our Christian values. Each term, we focus on 3 values across the school and develop a working understanding of them through our choice of texts and foundation subject learning, embedding reading and maths at the core. Our approach is to deliver learning which excites and inspires, provides opportunity for recap and challenge, raises questions for debate, develops learners' confidence and enables independent learning to flourish. High standards, collaboration and valuing individuals' well-being is at the heart of this process. We believe that how we teach is as important as what we teach and that enrichment experiences are an entitlement. We want our curriculum to enable our children to be wise, responsible and kind in line with our school core values.

Definition

Worship is a central focus for us as a Church of England school. It provides a means by which Christian values, stories and principles may be reflected on and affirmed. Children will also encounter values, principles and stories from other major faiths.

Collective worship enables the school as a whole, to experience the mystery and wonder of life and the world and to develop spiritual and moral values. It involves both children and adults in responding to wonder, awe, mystery celebration, reverence, reflection, fellowship, awareness, thanksgiving and praise.

For children whose families belong to different faith communities, it offers the opportunity to worship God in their own way.

Aims

To encourage a sense of awe and wonder and foster a respect for the world, its peoples, and their faiths.

To develop a sense of the values on which we build good, strong and happy lives.

To create an atmosphere in which those who wish to can pray, reflect or meditate and worship God.

To encourage many forms of communication and expression including music, singing, prayer, rituals, story, poems, drama, dance, symbol, etc

To enable children to learn from Christianity and other faiths in a way that promotes their spiritual, moral, cultural and cognitive development and prepares them for opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Legal Requirements

The Education Reform Act 1988 requires *"The arrangements for the collective act of worship be made by the Governors after consultation with the Headteacher. The act specifies "All pupils in attendance shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship" unless parents request that they are excused. We seek to provide an assembly each day which is central to the life of the school, reflects our school's trust deeds and includes an "Act of collective worship".*

The 1988 Act defines its aims as: ***Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and 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 and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.***

We wish to encourage all the children to take part in collective worship taking account of individual integrity. The school respects the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship, although it is hoped that any parent considering this option will discuss the matter with the Head teacher first. Any concerns

about collective worship should be addressed to the Head teacher in the first instance or governors if necessary.

The School also has pupils from a variety of religious traditions and staff are sensitive to the needs of children from different faiths.

In Practice:

1. Collective worship includes time for:
 - Thinking
 - Sharing
 - Listening
 - Stillness and silence
 - Reflecting on a chosen "Value"
2. Collective Worship is led by the Head teacher, teachers, local clergy and members of the local community.
3. Pupils are involved in preparing and delivering worship and Year 6 leaders organise candle lighting, singing and prayers.
4. Christian festivals and assemblies often take place in St Mary's Church.
5. Collective prayers are said up to 3 times a day – in assembly, as grace in thanks for our mid-day meal and at the end of the day. Children and staff are invited to join in prayer if they so wish.
6. Termly "Values" are explored via assemblies to extend the understanding of Christian beliefs. This is supported by our weekly circle time plans. Wherever possible the value of the term is supported by Bible readings / stories. We aim to develop an understanding of the stories in the Old and New Testament as well as developing a relationship with Jesus through our collective worship. Our two year Curriculum plan links 3 focus values a term with our assemblies. This means children are learning about the same values through their curriculum as they are reflecting on in assembly and practicing in their daily lives.
7. Our Year 6 children have Bibles given to them by the Parochial Church Council at the beginning of each year. These are used to support worship, giving older children an opportunity to take part in leading parts of assemblies.
8. Godly play is used throughout the year as a strategy to encourage children to reflect on Bible stories and Christian values.
9. Local ministers come into school regularly to lead whole school assembly, class assemblies and prayer circles. This often includes initiatives such as prayer walks, and meditation.
10. Open the Book Assemblies are held weekly and are led by members of the Christian community.

Weekly assembly Rota

Monday – Head teacher assembly to start the week. The values of the term are developed. Links are made with the liturgical year / local, national and international events.

Tuesday – An opportunity with a senior member of staff to explore the values in the light of our own lives and our work on Rights Respecting Schools.

Wednesday – A well-being, mindfulness, spiritual assembly.

Thursday – Open the Book – Members of the church community bring Bible story-telling to life.

Friday – A community achievement celebration assembly, including worship.

Links with RE teaching and learning

We believe that Collective Worship is strengthened by high quality RE teaching. We use Understanding Christianity, the Oxfordshire Syllabus and a Big Question approach to teaching RE. This can be delivered across a term in weekly lessons or as part of a focus RE day which gives the children chance to explore a question in depth, coming to their own opinions at the end. We encourage reflective and analytical thinking throughout and hope that children will peruse and raise their own questions – realising that some questions might not have answers.

Resources and In-Service Training

Resources for staff are kept in the PPA room, hall and ELSA room upstairs. Staff attend in service training when suitable courses are available and the school works closely with the advisory team at the Oxford Diocese.

Monitoring

It is the duty of the Head teacher to ensure this policy is delivered. This role is supported by the governors who are responsible for RE and collective worship and are Foundation Governors. The school evaluates worship in a process involving pupils, staff and governors. This feedback informs our action points for further development. Foundation governors meet each term with the Collective worship / RE co-ordinator to review our SIAMS SEF and action plan developments.

Appendix

| Year A | Values |
|--------------|--|
| Term 1 and 2 | Peace, Courage and Unity |
| Term 3 and 4 | Equality, Tolerance and Diversity |
| Term 5 and 6 | Kindness, Understanding, and Forgiveness |

| Year B | Values |
|--------------|---|
| Term 1 and 2 | Belief, Respect, Trust |
| Term 3 and 4 | Hope and Happiness |
| Term 5 and 6 | Friendship, Co-operation and Responsibility |

- The values of each term link with our curriculum planning across the whole school.
- The core values of our school are: Wisdom, Kindness, Responsibility. These permeate all our work.