

Collective Worship Policy

Committee	Foundation Governors
Date Approved by Governing Body	10 th June 2015
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Next Review Date by Committee	February 2018

'Celebrate Learning, Achieving and Friendship in God's Love'
Core Values: Love, Hope, Trust, Respect

Policy Statement

At Waterhouses CE (VC) Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Together, we celebrate our Christian values, vision and ethos and reflect upon their contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of participants. Worship is fully inclusive, rooted in the Christian faith, but accessible to all members of the school community.

Aims

- To create an atmosphere in which faith in God is recognised and respected.
- To encourage children to reflect, explore and develop their own spiritual awareness.
- To learn about and reflect upon Christian Teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience.
- To set the distinctive values of the school in their Christian context.
- To develop understanding of the nature and purpose of prayer and the part prayer may play within an individual's life and spiritual development.
- To choose themes which inspire spiritual and moral reflection and challenges learners to take responsibility for their own conduct.
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit.
- To help children understand the language and nature of worship.
- To encourage participation and response.

Collective Worship is distinctively Christian, but we recognise the importance of times of assembly which allow the school community to celebrate all the wonderful achievements of members of the school. For this reason, we hold a valued 'celebration' assembly once a fortnight. All members of the local community including parents and carers are warmly invited to attend this assembly.

Management of Collective Worship

The Foundation Governors, in conjunction with the Governing Body, Headteacher, staff and school community have responsibility to ensure that the daily act of collective worship is consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and the trust deeds of the school.

The headteacher, as worship coordinator has responsibility for managing collective worship on a day- to- day basis, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with.

Approach and Organisation

- There is a clear, planned programme for Collective Worship that ensures continuity, variety and a clear focus on Christian beliefs, teaching and festivals, and the way that these link with the values and life of the school. Themes may be adapted to reflect the life of the school and events of local, national or international significance.
- An appropriate atmosphere is created by using music, candles, symbols or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.
- Children are expected to behave in an appropriate and respectful manner.
- Children engage in songs or hymns thought to be appropriate to the age group involved.
- Quiet times for reflection and prayers are included in the worship
- A variety of settings, timings and environments are used to enrich worship
- Children are encouraged to participate wherever possible.
- Children are given opportunities to lead acts of worship.
- Collective worship is led by different people eg the headteacher, teachers, classes and invited speakers including foundation governors, the Priest of the Benefice and Methodist Minister.
- At the end of each half term, Collective Worship is shared in the Methodist Church.
- An annual Carol Service is shared in the churches of the Benefice in turn.

Planning and Recording

The themes are approached through a variety of presentation eg stories, drawing on the children's experiences, music, drama, slides, artefacts and films.

The themes and values to be explored through worship each term will be decided in advance. Records of evaluated plans are kept centrally in the school's SIAMS folder. Monitoring and evaluating the impact of Collective Worship is an on-going process that involves input from staff, pupils and the school community. Feedback provides insight into how worship influences the life of the community and is used to ensure improvement.

Values Education

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop emotionally, personally and socially so that their self-esteem and well-being is supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time for prayer and/or reflection. At the beginning of lunch hour, grace is said by the children. At the end of the day, the children lead in one of their own prayers or the class prayer. The school has a prayer box and a prayer tree. Children are encouraged to write short prayers to put in the box or the tree. If a child wishes, their prayer may be read out in worship.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs.

Equal Opportunities

Our Collective worship affirms the equality of each individual in God's sight, whatever the child's age, gender, ethnicity or academic ability. We seek to use materials that are appropriate to a range of abilities and aptitudes.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years.

Collective Worship Co-ordinator: Anne Lockey

Foundation Governors: Roy Morley, Arthur Hack, Joyce Forshaw