

ASTON ALL SAINTS C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Worship Policy

Date: September 2015

Review Date: 2017-18

“The Christian ethos is at the heart of all we do in school and underpins all our aims.” It is our aim that every member of our school community feels valued and respected and that each person is treated fairly and well. We are a caring community, whose values are built on mutual trust and respect for all. The Worship Policy is therefore designed to support the way in which all members of the school can live and work together in a supportive way. It aims to promote an environment where everyone feels happy, safe and secure.

Why we have an act of worship

- To have time together to worship as a school family;
- To support and fulfil the aims stated in the R.E. Policy.

Through the daily act of worship we aim to:-

- develop an understanding of the teachings of Jesus and their relevance in today's world;
- encourage and foster the idea of a loving, caring school community where there is self-respect and respect for one another;
- value individual gifts and talents;
- help children to understand and respect other faiths and see the similarities between these faiths and Christianity.

How we plan our act of worship / assemblies

- An act of worship is held each morning: four mornings for whole school and one morning where infant and junior departments meet separately. (Wednesday)

The Act of Worship is led in turn (not necessarily on set days) by:

- The Key Stage One Coordinator -
- The Head Teacher – both the KS1 coordinator and the Head Teacher follow a planned pattern of themes for each half term

- The priest in charge.
- The Deputy Head – A Special Mentions assembly, celebrating children’s achievements in and out of school / and a short act of worship before hymn singing practice.
- Infant Staff – A short act of worship followed by hymn singing practice.

Format of Assembly

- As the children arrive in the hall for assembly, music is playing on the C.D. player. The music is chosen by different classes in turn. The title and composer is displayed to inform children and / or children from the class explain their choice. This is organised by a child in Y6.
- A candle is lit to mark the start of the Act of Worship.
- At the beginning of Act of Worship, we say a short prayer.
- A hymn is sung and this is accompanied by the recorder group/ piano or CD
- Prayers are said and time allowed for personal reflection. The Lord's Prayer is said at the end of most Acts of Worship
- The teaching, Special Mentions, singing or story follows.
- The candle is blown out at the end of the Act of Worship at which ever point it occurs in the assembly: ie in special mentions this is before the celebration of children’s work or achievements.
- The morning’s music is played again as the children leave the hall.

Eucharist

A Eucharist service is held at the end of each half term. All the children are involved, junior children using service sheets. All the children sing the responses and the infants sing during the Communion.

- The School Orchestra plays for the hymns and gives a short recital at the end of the service. . The infant children sing and play instruments during communion. Children also serve, narrate
- Classes take turns to lead the Ministry of the Word in the Eucharist. Sometimes children from each class or the musicians will lead. Parents, visitors and the Aston Community are invited. The Lord’s Prayer, the Gloria and the Sanctus (to a setting composed for us by Peter Lewis) are sung within the liturgy and “Shalom” is used in “The Peace”.
- The children take a full and active part in the Eucharist contributing music, altar frontals, dance-drama, commentary, readings and prayers: receiving a blessing or taking communion as appropriate.
- Year 6 children announce the hymns, lead prayers and guide the congregation through the service.

Additional Information

- a) Whole school assemblies are held at 9.15 am four days a week, - separate KS act of worship on Wednesday.
- b) School assemblies on world religion take place..
- c) The children lead class assemblies at different times in the school year to which parents and visitors are invited.
- d) Various special assemblies to celebrate festivals, or musical, artistic and dance-drama talent take place.
- e) Confirmation classes are offered to the oldest children in school and to older children from Church families. These usually take place after school. Confirmation usually takes place at the beginning of March.
- f) School families are invited to attend special services in All Saints Church through the year eg Christingle, Mothering Sunday, Harvest

Signed.....

Date.....