



Policy for Collective Worship

On our learning journey together.

Article 14 All children have the right to choose their own religion and beliefs.

Introduction

At Albourne Church of England Primary school we believe it is important to meet together regularly as a community to worship together. The character of worship in the school is Christian with references to other faiths when appropriate. Collective worship is co-ordinated by the Head teacher and a variety of themes and activities are used to ensure high quality experience for all the children regardless of family background and belief.

Worship is based upon our core school Christian Values of: respect, responsibility, trust and perseverance, with other Christian values revisited regularly.

Legal Background

The 1996 Education Act states that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each school day take part in an act of 'worship' unless the parent/carer requests that s/he may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship in the school'.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from daily acts of worship and should inform the Headteacher if this is their wish so alternative arrangements can be made.

School Commitment to Collective Worship

At Albourne we believe that collective worship should aim to:

- be central to school life
- focus on core Christian values
- be stimulating, reflective and genuine in content
- allow space for personal beliefs
- be inclusive
- provide opportunities for spiritual and moral development

Setting the Scene

We believe that it is very important to create the right atmosphere for collective worship. The atmosphere will aim to: -

- be warming and welcoming;
- be peaceful and calm, yet vibrant and alive;
- enable all to express and share thoughts and feelings - or choose not to;
- allow for a secure and comfortable knowledge that each person will be valued and respected.

Collective worship is a whole school activity. We believe that adults' participation with children in worship gives a positive message and underlines its importance in the life of the school. All staff will participate in Friday's Celebration Assembly, and in the other collective worship sessions on a rota basis.

Collective worship will usually take place in the school hall. The worship table will be a focal point, and will be covered in line with Church liturgical colours.

We recognise that stillness and quiet are important parts of the worship, and to help set the scene for this, the children will enter quietly while music is playing. A period of silence during worship enables those present to have their own reflection time or conversation with God.

Worship and Assembly have different purposes and need to be distinct from one another. A lack of distinction will affect the atmosphere. A clear change in style will be needed for the various assembly items, e.g. notices to be given out, or the school reminded of behaviour expectations.

The Anglican Tradition

School worship will reflect the Church of England Controlled nature of the school and be in line with the Trust Deed of 1844.

The following are areas that may be explored in worship during the child's time at school:

- using the bible as a source of inspiration and learning;
- reflecting on Christian symbols and their use in worship;
- observing the cycle of the Church's year and holy days;
- using the parish church and its priest as resources;
- making a collection of prayers, hymns and psalms thus creating a framework for worship in the school;
- providing opportunities to discover the value of meditation and silence within worship;
- recognising the commitment to ecumenism (e.g. inviting members of other Christian denominations to lead worship);
- welcoming all pupils and members of whatever faith and celebrating shared values and beliefs.

Prayers, Worship songs and Music

Our aim is that through a varied range of prayers and silent reflection children will be helped to develop an understanding of prayer. Children need to recognise that different people pray in different ways. As a school we will use candles and artefacts to aid reflection.

Hymns and worship songs are an integral part of our collective worship. When selecting songs the following are considered:

- singing during worship allows children to become active in the worship rather than passive observers;
- the need for a wide repertoire of hymns and songs;
- the music should be selected to match the age range of the children;
- special consideration is given to the use of choruses and hymns with refrains for Key Stage 1 children and non-readers;

- regular practice and learning of songs is built into the school timetable to prepare for quality worship;
- that an understanding and enjoyment of the music adds to the success of the worship.

A fortnightly hymn/song practice takes place with time set aside to include a brief discussion, reflection and prayer to fulfill the daily worship obligation.

Music to be listened to at collective worship is considered for its appropriateness. It will include a variety from all traditions and will enhance the atmosphere of the worship.

Planning for School Worship:

Long Term Planning

This will be done in conjunction with the faith group, comprising the Head teacher, the Vicar and at least one foundation Governor. This group will:

- provide a programme of worship themes which ensure a balanced and informed approach;
- identify the special occasions or services the school wishes to mark;
- make use of the church calendar;
- identify the groupings for worship;
- identify the leaders of the worship;

Medium Term Planning

Included in these plans will be:

- a break down of termly intentions
- a list of potential resources
- identification of visitors

Short Term Plans

These plans will be developed by the individuals responsible for the acts of worship. A record of coverage will be kept.

Monitoring

The monitoring of the planning and provision of worship will be done on a regular basis. The foundation Governors have a vital part to play in the monitoring of worship, both as a support and as a visitor sharing in school worship.

The school worship will also be inspected regularly through **Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)** under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

Evaluation

The policy will be evaluated by the faith group on a regular basis following monitoring.