



A Beacon Of Hope On The Hill; A Small School Making A Big Difference

DUNDRY PRIMARY SCHOOL – COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship provides an opportunity for children to create and participate in shared experiences of celebration, praise and thanksgiving to God in accordance with the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988. This policy should be taken and used as part of Dundry Church of England school's overall strategy and implementation within the context of our vision, instrument of government aims and values as a Church of England school. This policy takes account of worship guidelines and legislation (DfES Circular 1/94 & SIAMS) and is consistent with the Trust Deeds and the overall aims of the school and ethos statement:

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in Partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

AIMS

Collective Worship is an experiential medium offering a major contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils:

To encourage children's natural sense of awe and wonder of God's creation and to develop their qualities of curiosity, celebration and gratitude which form the foundation of worship.

To offer children an opportunity for experiential understanding of the adoration of God in a way that is individual and appropriate for them, and which allows them to function comfortably in Christian worship.

To explore and celebrate the broad Christian beliefs in a way which reflects and complements the values and attitudes being fostered in the classrooms, and the principles which are communicated through the school aims and general ethos, thus reinforcing positive attitudes.

To explore and reflect on the meaning and purpose of important life issues and to ponder ultimate questions.

To provide opportunity to discuss and recognise the diversity of religion, yet through experience develop the skills of handling difference responsibly and with respect.

To encourage participation and response whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in with the worship offered.

To provide some of those 'special moments' which make a substantial contribution to the spiritual well being of all members of the school community (see Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy).



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Our Christian Values

As a school we have chosen six Christian Values which we feel are most pertinent to the ethos and vision of the school. These are:

Community, Compassion, Creativity, Friendship, Trust and Hope

RESPONSIBILITIES

The RE leader acts as the Collective Worship coordinator and is responsible for the day to day organisation of worship and the planning of the annual cycle of worship themes, church services and visiting speakers. This is carried out in liaison with the Head of School and the incumbent of the Parish Church of Dundry. Professional development of all staff is promoted and attendance at relevant Diocesan courses is actively encouraged. The coordinator is responsible for the purchasing of resources, offers guidance to those who are charged with the delivery of acts of worship and regularly monitors and evaluates the quality of provision across the school. All class teachers have the responsibility to ensure that their pupils participate in a daily act of worship. The School Improvement Plan reflects the distinctive nature of this Church of England School and its content seeks to promote and protect the Christian ethos.

GUIDELINES

1. An act of worship will take place each day. Sometimes these will involve the whole school but on some days separate acts will be held for individual classes.
2. The worship will be planned to be relevant, meaningful and inclusive of all and will allow for a variety of responses, from awareness and appreciation through respect and commitment to devotion and adoration.
3. The act of worship will be taken by members of staff, the Reverend, various members of the Lakeside Group, or by carefully chosen visitors. All those responsible for arranging an act of worship will be given a copy of the Worship Calendar for the term and will receive due notice of the times they are required to lead the worship.
4. Worship will be shared with the wider Church family both at the parish church of Dundry and at our own Diocesan Cathedral at Wells.
5. Worship will be planned to take account of the major festivals of the church year and with due consideration of the school's curriculum plan. The worship plan offers a four year cycle with additional themes and issues explored, allowing an opportunity for children to develop spiritually over a period of time.



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The Act of Worship will follow a recognisable format:

- The worship should be for about twenty minutes.
- During whole school worships, there will be a hymn in an appropriate place which, wherever possible, will relate to the theme of worship.
- There will be a time for quiet reflection or a prayer.
- The worship will have a clear focus and will often involve pupil participation. The theme will be developed over a period of time.
- Elements used in the worship may include music (tapes, singing, bands, recorders etc.) listening to stories, Bible readings and other relevant passages, use of movement, mime, drama, stilling exercise, artefacts and audio-visual material.
- The rich traditions and aspects of the Church of England liturgy will be used, as appropriate, to enhance the quality of worship.
- Themes based on the Bible and Christian values provide pupils with a meaningful experience where, God, Jesus and the Trinitarian nature of Christianity is openly explored.
- When the whole school meets, a table draped with the school cloth and supporting candle in front of an appropriate backdrop will be used as a focus. This has a focus on the colours denoted at differing times of the year in the Church calendar. Class worship will also contain a focus of a candle and a worship sign will be displayed on classroom doors to avoid disturbance.
- Seating will be as comfortable as possible in order to aid a worshipful experience. This will change to effectively meet and support the type of worship being used.

The Education Reform Act 1988 makes provision for pupils and teachers to withdraw from collective worship. This is endorsed by the principles contained in the schools Equal Opportunities policy and parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to express their wish in writing to the Head of School.

CONCLUSION

Children should see the Act of Worship as a place where teachers and pupils may express joy and thankfulness, share concerns and experiences and affirm the beliefs and values of the school community and the Christian Church of which they are a part. Collective worship at Dundry clearly reflects and demonstrates its distinctive Christian beliefs and makes a positive contribution to the life and wellbeing of the school.