



Bibury C of E Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Vision - A safe learning community that nurtures and inspires individuality, confidence and success.

Bibury Church of England School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

This school aims to be part of the wider community through fostering Christian values, and the development of spirituality through reflection, to enhance relationships.

Bibury is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School. As such it has a Trust Deed, which states that worship will be in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England.

Time is set aside every day for collective worship to develop and nurture children's spiritual growth, and create the atmosphere and conditions within which worship can have meaning for all children.

AIMS

- To give children understanding of Christian values and beliefs;
- To ensure that a regular pattern of worship is followed;
- To give children experience and involvement with Christians of different standpoints;

- To develop, encourage and support children leading worship
- To encourage involvement with the local Church community;
- To include stories, and information from other World Faiths, that promote respect for other people's beliefs.

METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

It is expected that children will participate in worship and will show:

- a) appropriate behaviour and respect the needs of others;
- b) appreciation of their role within the school community.

It is expected that children will learn:

- a) something of the rituals, liturgy and symbolism of the Christian faith;
- b) special events and times in the Church's calendar;
- c) some prayers – both well known and school based (eg. school prayer, Lord's prayer, The Grace)

Each Act of Collective Worship will last approximately 20 minutes and include:

- time for a variety of prayers and forms of meditation;
- stillness and quiet reflection;
- mention of or reference to God/ Jesus.

It may include:

- music and song
- use of Christian symbols
- an appropriate period of reflection
- lighted candle/s
- celebration

Collective Worship is planned at the beginning of each term. This follows a theme and the timetable is displayed in the staff room. This outlines dates, times, themes and the key person involved for each assembly. The timetables and evaluations are kept for record.

It is important that staff and pupils share together in worship in order to enhance our Christian ethos.

Members of other churches and people who work for charities may be invited to lead the worship.

The church is used for daily worship and at times such as Harvest time, Christmas, Easter; for special occasions such as Christingle, the School Leavers' service; and when appropriate, other acts of collective worship.

SPECIFIC ISSUES

The school respects the integrity of religious communities from which the pupils come and recognises that parents have the right to withdraw a child from an Act of Collective Worship. If they wish to do so, parents must inform the headteacher in writing and will be encouraged to discuss the matter.

It is our school's responsibility to develop and nurture children's spiritual growth. This includes helping children to develop their understanding of how people's beliefs and values help them make informed choices in life. In addition to the curriculum, we do this through:

Off site visits - DBS checks where necessary. Permission for off site visits is requested and relevant risk assessments undertaken. Adult supervision is essential for pupils going off site. We will create a safe atmosphere where all children will experience conditions for quiet reflection and enhancement of personal spirituality.

Personalised learning – worship will be in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England. Pupils are encouraged to pose their own questions, participate and lead whole school and group assemblies/ services.

Links with Christian groups and people from other faiths encourage pupils to think about the impact they can have on others eg. initiatives such as charity fund raising

Thinking about citizenship and here we aim to broaden children's understanding of our school as a Christian community both locally, nationally and globally. In addition they will learn more about our multi-ethnic society and their place in it.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

As part of our ongoing monitoring and evaluating process Collective Worship will be reviewed weekly on the timetable displayed in the staffroom. One assembly per week will be evaluated. Additional comments are welcomed and evaluations dated.

REVIEWING

Policy Adopted: September 2015