

Vision

We aim to provide an education enriched by our Christian heritage, with four key elements which are at the heart of all that we are and align with the Church of England's Vision for education: Wisdom, Hope, Community and Dignity. Our learners are given opportunities to become independent, collaborative, creative learners who have the confidence to seek wisdom and nurture their love of learning. Our small school provides big opportunities to broaden learners' horizons and prepare them for the fullness of life, through hope, aspiration and our core Christian values. We focus on relationships and learning to live well in a wider community that can flourish together. Central to children's learning is respecting the worth, dignity and preciousness of each person in a safe and inclusive environment within the sight and love of God.

Each Academy within the MAT has adapted this vision for their individual setting.

Rational

The National Curriculum states that all schools are required to make provision for a daily act of collective worship. Collective Worship within the Link Academy Trust provides a major opportunity to express our Christian distinctiveness and the Christian ethos of the school community. Caring relationships, vision and values are the bedrock of this important daily celebration of all that is of worth to the school community.

The Principles of Worship

- Collective Worship is inclusive. It is an activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain. Worship in our schools has been called 'collective' since it must promote the spiritual development of people of all faiths, or of none.
- It can foster a sense of fellowship by bringing pupils, staff and parents whenever possible, together.
- It introduces pupils to aspects of religious worship in an open and honest atmosphere, celebrating God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, whilst respecting the integrity of all present.



- It can offer experiences and opportunities which allow children to explore aspects of worship and encourage a development of the spiritual dimension of the child's life (underpinned by the structure of Window-Mirrors-Doors).
- It provides opportunities to invite members of the wider community into school and to celebrate special occasions.
- It allows time in a busy and demanding school day to stop and be still, to celebrate, reflect upon and affirm our Christian and moral values.
- It has a sense of occasion, either as a whole school or in an individual class situation.
- It is curricular. It is a learning experience intended to be meaningful part of the whole curriculum, focusing on that which is 'of worth' in the life and work of the school. It is also a sharing experience eg. pupil's work and achievements, sports teams' results, competitions and birthdays, joyful and sad events.
- It encourages children to develop a sense of awe and wonder about the world around them.
- It provides opportunities for the exploration of a wide range of social, environmental and interpersonal issues in the context of a moral framework (taking account of the needs of others), so that they may make a more considered response to those issues.
- It celebrates and reflects the Anglican foundation of the school.

Legal requirements

- ❖ All pupils at The Trust shall take part each day in an act of collective worship, unless the parent requests that s/he be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship in the school. However, as Church Schools it is hoped that all pupils will attend.
- ❖ The daily act of collective worship shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England.
- ❖ Use will be made of the Parish Church, for regular acts of collective worship and church calendar celebrations.
- ❖ The character of the school as a church school will be maintained and developed in accordance with the provision of the trust deed.

Taking part in Collective Worship.

It is expected that all staff will be prepared to support and lead collective worship. Worship in the Link Academy Trust church schools will be distinctly Christian.

We aim to involve all our individual communities, as far as possible, in our collective worship, both in attendance and participation; this includes our children, our staff, our parents and where possible our governors and local community.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. As a school we encourage dialogue with parents, so that any concern about any activity is discussed to avoid misunderstanding and confusion. We therefore hope that parents will not feel that they have to withdraw their child from collective worship, as this breaks down the unity of the school.

Purposeful provision will be made for any children withdrawn.

Collective Worship and Assembly

An assembly is a gathering of part or all of our school. Part of it can be concerned with administrative matters and other announcements about school life. It is of utmost importance that collective worship is seen to be distinct from those parts of the assembly that are concerned solely with administration. Collective worship is a context for allowing an individual to make a spiritual response freely as appropriate for them.

Visitors

We welcome other people into school to lead our worship, including local vicars and their team who visit on a regular basis. The Open Book team bring bible stories to life for us through their visits each term. Visitors could be of another Christian denomination but they should not promote their own style of beliefs ahead of those of the Church of England. People of other religions could be involved in assemblies but would not lead the act of worship.

Context of Collective worship

Collective Worship may consist of:

- Whole school, introduction of special theme/value, led by Academy head and /or staff or local vicar.
- Whole school or Key stage based worship on theme/value
- Whole school, visiting Open Book team
- Child led EG Out of the Box worship
- Collective worship led by our Children's Ethos Comm/Team.
- Sing and Praise, theme/value developed through music.
- Whole school celebration act of worship including involving pupil's achievements.

Planning and resources

We carefully plan for, evaluate and record our acts of worship, planning around the church calendar, to reflect the festivals and events of the Christian year. Each school also plans around their own Key values, each one being introduced via a biblical story. The term's collective worship programme is displayed for all staff with the relevant support resources. This runs on a rolling programme to keep material fresh. There is of

course enough flexibility to respond to particular and immediate situations that are relevant and which impact on the children directly, for example events of local, national or international importance.

Resources used to enhance our collective worship include focal object/display of artefacts, bible readings, stories, music, poetry, art, power-point presentations and use of on-line resources, all of which we hope contribute to a stimulating and thoughtful time for the children.

A candle is lit to act as a focal point and this helps to mark the beginning of worship. The candle being blown signifies the end of the worship element and then allows for a more 'assembly' based administration as needed.

Music is important in our school and it is used to help create an atmosphere that is conducive to our collective worship, whether that is in a celebratory mood, or a more calming and reflective one.

We use the format of welcome, teaching/learning, reflecting and responding, with the Windows, Mirrors and Doors approach to promote the children's spiritual and moral development.

The collective worship programme will be evaluated annually, via discussion with staff, pupils, parents, governors, or by means of a survey/questionnaire.

Prayers

Collective worship includes a time of prayer and reflection. A range of prayers is used including The Lord's Prayer, extempore (informal) prayers, personal prayers, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet.

At the beginning of lunch, grace is said, taken from a collection of graces used regularly. A prayer is said in each class at the end of the day, ranging from The Lord's Prayer to an original class prayer sung to a well known hymn tune.

Reviewed:
November 2018