

ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Introduction

As a Church Controlled School we welcome our responsibility of ensuring that our worship is consistent with the Faith and practice of the Church of England as stated in the Trust Deeds of the School. Worship will take place daily either in the school or it may on occasions be held in the Church (or elsewhere).

Our Aims for Collective Worship (why do we worship?)

Collective Worship is intended to:

- re-affirm and practice the mission, aims and values of our schools;
- celebrate achievements of the school and its members and occasions such as birthdays and Christian Festivals;
- stimulate reflection and spiritual growth within the school;
- strengthen and support the School Community;
- develop a sense of belonging, sharing, caring and responsibility;

It is further intended to give our pupils the opportunity to;

- praise and reach out to God;
- experience the presence of God;
- experience stillness and quietness;
- reflect, respond and have reverence for things which are of worth, and which have great meaning in people's lives;
- consider the importance of prayer and meditation;
- consider the relevance of worship in everyday life;
- explore and share beliefs and ideas in a spirit of openness in which differences are appreciated;
- develop spiritually, morally, culturally and mentally;
- prepare for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences they will encounter;
- lay the foundations upon which to base a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

How do we approach worship?

Our Collective Worship will:-

- allow time for thought and silence;
- develop an environment in which worship and reflection can take place and be valued;
- use explanations and language which are appropriate to the ages, abilities and background of pupils;
- be ecumenical in the use of different forms of worship;
- promote understanding and feelings of awe, wonder, love and compassion towards the world and other people;
- provide opportunities for pupil involvement;
- draw from the wealth of liturgical material in the Anglican tradition.

Planning for Collective Worship

Themes for Collective Worship are planned to make a significant contribution to school life, through being of high quality, respecting the integrity of pupils and staff, and providing opportunities for varied levels of participation.

The Headteacher and Chair of Governors encourage all staff to lead Collective Worship. Whilst the competencies listed for Initial Teacher Training do not address this statutory aspect of school life, the team ethos of our school is successful in ensuring that even NQTs are prepared to fulfil their role in Collective Worship. Records of Collective Worship, which are kept by the children are used as reference documents and to review our practice (Teacher's Meetings agenda item three times a year).

Withdrawal

As a Church Controlled School we aim for involvement of all our children in Collective Worship. It should however be noted that parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship, and should contact the Headteacher if they wish to arrange this.

Sue Humphries
April 2009

Reviewed: 22.9.10 L. Taylor/S. Wurr