

St Meriadoc C of E VA Junior Academy
Collective Worship Policy written by Mrs T Nisbet
Adopted: September 2017
Date to be reviewed: September 2019



At St Meriadoc Junior Academy, collective worship is fundamental to the life of our school. We value Collective Worship as an opportunity for us together as a community to reflect on our values from the Christian faith, our own beliefs, the teachings of the Bible and how these impact our lives as well as a chance for celebration. 'Behold. how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity.' Psalm 133:1. Our Collective Worship reflects our mission statement and shape our approach to others and enrich what we do in school.

Our collective worship provides the pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- worship God and The Holy Trinity
- experience a variety of styles of worship
- celebrate:
 - Christian festivals;
 - school values;
 - achievements;
 - topical issues
- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- develop as a community based in Christian values
- reflect on the teaching of the Bible and how these impact our lives
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship
- feel safe and supported
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- respond to the worship offered
- come together as a whole school and promote unity

At times worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth
- consider moral issues in a Christian context
- enhance social understanding
- explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage

The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings in the school hall, classrooms, church and on occasions outside. A new focus to be taken on 'Where is the strangest place for Collective Worship?' - this will help emphasise that Collective Worship can take place anywhere and will help children understand that they can hold their own worship outside of the school environment and boundaries.

We follow the seasons of the Church year and within this significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost and other days are celebrated occasionally. Topical issues are also covered where appropriate from charity focuses such as Children in Need and The Air Ambulance to impacting terror attacks as well as extreme weather incidents which leave countries devastated.

Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

Leading worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church Community - Licensed Lay Minister, Susan Goldolphin from our church, Camborne Church on a monthly basis as well as Peter Ham from Tuckingmill Baptist Church, Camborne. The opportunity for children to have different teachers from the school take collective worship, allows them to build bonds, interact and listen to the viewpoints and interpretations of others. Children are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year, starting with our Worship Committee and pupils from the class when their teacher is taking worship. Visitors are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness and promote respect for other faiths.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience, reflecting our Christian values, the teachings of the Bible as well as topical focusses. Leaders, including the children within the Worship Committee, plan the content and activities included in Worship according to the particular focus value for that half term and the related stories and teachings from the Bible. Also taken into account is what is most appropriate to the season/theme, the ages and the backgrounds of the pupils. Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as dance, drama, ICT, alongside traditional elements of worship such as prayer, song, telling Bible stories, reflection as well as lighting a candle to help focus reflection and linking to God as light as well as the Holy Trinity.

Reviewing Acts of Collective Worship

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection. Children are now invited to review Collective Worship to help leaders work on the impact it is having as well as how it may need to be adapted to meet the needs of all children and adults within our school. The Worship Committee will ask for a child or adult to choose a reflection prompt and comment on what the worship made them reflect upon, understand at a deeper level or what it is making them think of further. Also Class Learning Forums have taken place, in which classes discuss what worship means to them as well as what aspects they enjoy. All of these forms of evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship, through leaders and the Worship Committee reflecting upon these at the end of each half term and then feeding this information back to the other leaders of worship.

Prayer

Prayer is a vital part of our worship and also supports our school ethos. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not require pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship. There are also reflective prayer stations within various areas of the school, both inside and outside, and in each classroom, so that there is always a quiet space for children to have the opportunity for prayer and reflection. As well as during acts of worship, specific times to pray are set aside each day at lunch time and home time.

A legal note

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day
- should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief
- to consider spiritual and moral issues as well as their own beliefs

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never forced or indoctrinatory. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit the school to speak with the headteacher.