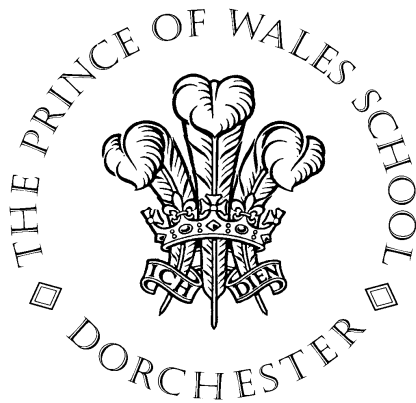


The Prince of Wales School



POLICY STATEMENT FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Reviewed September 2013

Introduction

At The Prince of Wales School we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school.

Aims

- to provide children with regular opportunities for stillness and reflection
- to promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- to celebrate the values and worth of the school community and all who belong in it, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of the children
- to help the children develop an understanding of both the nature and language of worship
- to introduce children to the basic elements of faith such as prayer, songs of worship, sermon, including but not exclusively the Christian faith
- to provide examples of people whose lives are influenced by their religious beliefs
- to help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others and to encourage the promotion of tolerance
- to support the whole curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, story, drama, poetry, silence, displays of artefacts, slides, pictures and other visual and oral means of communication

What is the act of worship about?

to enable children to

- reflect upon the nature of their own existence
- raise questions of ultimate meaning and purpose
- learn about the broad traditions of Christian belief and the beliefs of other major faiths of a modern multi-faith UK
- appreciate the worth of other points of view and other beliefs
- develop a sense of awe and wonder at the world

The Legal Position

In accordance with legal requirements (School Standards and Framework Act 1998) an act of collective worship, taking account of the age, aptitude and background of pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship, but since we strongly believe that our practice is inclusive in nature, parents who may have other faiths, or none at all, are strongly encouraged to discuss their concerns with the teacher responsible for collective worship (currently the headteacher) before exercising this right.

The school is committed to respect the integrity of the religious communities from which pupils come and also respects the views of those parents and pupils who express no religious faith.

Themes

We continually develop a range of themes and topics through which collective worship takes place.

1. We use the Values for Life resource which focuses upon 18 values. These include:

Key themes include:

- Courage
- creativity

- peace
- trust
- forgiveness
- justice
- thankfulness
- compassion
- friendship
- hope
- truthfulness
- humility
- generosity
- respect and reverence
- wisdom
- perseverance
- service
- responsibility

Each theme is the focus for assemblies over a two or three week period and so it takes well over a year for each theme to be explored.

2. We also use SEAL (PSHE resources) to focus upon children's awareness of their own emotions through the exploration of feelings such as anger, loneliness, jealousy, sadness, fear, self-esteem

- new beginnings
- say 'no' to bullying
- getting on and falling out
- going for goals!
- good to be me
- relationships
- changes

3. We also use assemblies to develop the notion of the seven qualities of citizenship encapsulated in our DASP caterpillars to encourage children to be:

- caring
- considerate
- confident
- communicative
- co-operative
- courteous
- conscientious

4. Further themes to be explored through assemblies include:

- the value of all human life
- the value of all members of our community regardless of disability
- the importance of family and friends
- a sense of the wider community
- right and wrong
- self-control, conscience and "owing up"
- awareness of others more disadvantaged than ourselves
- standing up for what is right and fighting what is wrong

5. We also use assemblies to celebrate special occasions and ceremonies, religious festivals, thanksgiving, harvest etc
6. As a Rights Respecting School we also explore notions of rights, responsibilities and global citizenship and tackle issue such as racism, poverty and stereotypical views of other people, cultures, countries and beliefs.
7. As an Eco School we also explore issues to develop a sense of wonder and concern for our wonderful world through:
 - energy
 - waste
 - litter
 - biodiversity
 - water
 - school grounds
 - travel to school
 - healthy living and fitness
 - recycling

Organisation of Collective Worship

Each half term, staff are provided with the themes for the next block of weeks and teachers volunteer to lead the assemblies on each day.

Monday	Singalongs
Tuesday	
Wednesday	(Year 4 out swimming)
Thursday	(Year 3 out swimming)
Friday	Class assemblies or Praise assemblies

Visitors

We believe that visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship. We hope to re-establish links with a wide range of visitors who reflect the local faith community so that we can return to the situation where in most weeks we have a visitor input.

We encourage visitors to provide age-appropriate input and a visual stimulus, but especially encourage them to share the way in which their faith affects their lives.

Visits and themes covered are recorded.

Responsibility

Currently, responsibility for organising, evaluating, staff training and improving acts of worship lies with the headteacher, within his role as curriculum leader for Religious Education.

Monitoring

It is expected that a governor will attend assemblies throughout the year and also lead some acts of worship. The nominated Governor is responsible Collective Worship.