

St. Osmund's Middle VA School Collective Worship Policy

Philosophy

St Osmund's C of E School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided/Controlled School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to be family and to inspire ourselves with God's vision of the world. It is attended by all students and staff. Any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

At St. Osmund's school we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our students' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Aims

It is our aim at St. Osmund's School that worship should:-

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community.
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings.
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity experience stillness and quiet.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- to help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship

- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in Church.

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. The school accepts the desirability of this legislation but has some practical difficulties in meeting this requirement. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship acts, of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Governors who after consultation with the head teacher has appointed Mrs Lydia Topp with the responsibility for co-ordinating Collective Worship in the school.

By broadly Christian in this school we mean that:-

- Worship contains some elements which accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, e.g. The Sermon on the Mount.
- Sharing with students the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as Love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.
- An acceptance that we are all God's children and that we all need His help both for this life and eternal life.

Acts of Collective Worship at St. Osmund's Middle School take into account the students' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image, moment of silence and reflection etc.

Rights of Withdrawal

At St. Osmund's Middle School we seek to be an inclusive community. However, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship.

This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher/worship co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

This right of withdrawal doesn't extend to assemblies.

Organisation e.g.

Weekly Assembly Pattern

Monday

Years 7 & 8 in the Sports hall
Year 5 in Small Hall
Year 6 Reflection Time in class

Tuesday

Years 5 & 6 in the Sports hall
Year 7 in the Small hall
Year 8 Reflection Time in class

Wednesday

Tutor Time

Thursday

Year 6 in Small hall
Year 8 in Sports hall
Years 5 & 7 Reflection Time in class

Friday

The whole school will meet in the Sports Hall

The collective worship coordinator is responsible for creating a termly calendar with themes and the names of colleagues who will lead collective worship.

On those days when a tutor group is not in an Act of Collective Worship the form tutor will develop /discuss the theme for the week with the tutor group allowing students the opportunity to reflect on the ideas he/she has heard that week.

Material for this is provided by the Collective Worship coordinator.

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation.

The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Each week there is a theme for Collective worship. These are published at the beginning of the term and a reminder is included in the weekly notices sheet. The theme is also displayed on a notice board in the school foyer. It is expected that those leading worship that week will relate their worship to this theme and that Tutors will re-enforce this in reflections in tutor time. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the students will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints.

This pattern is flexible and on occasion it is recognised that worship leaders may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

One of the school's foundation governors has a responsibility for monitoring collective worship within the school.