

SUTTON CE (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Version 2018:1v1

Approved by Staff

Date: June 2018

Approved by Governors

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To be reviewed every 3 years

SUTTON CE (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy for Collective Worship

'Worship' means 'giving worth to' or celebrating the 'worthiness' of someone or something; in a Christian or religious context. The term 'collective worship' is much broader, it acknowledges that the group gathered together to worship is not a group of believers (this would be 'corporate worship') but one in which some may be prepared to worship, some will be on the threshold as 'interested observers', and yet others have little personal interest in what is underway.

Collective worship in a voluntarily controlled (VC) school will mainly focus on Christian faith and values, with reference to the Anglican Heritage.

Assembly for collective worship offers the school a focal point for its community life, in which it can share its triumphs and disappointments, where members of that community are affirmed and its ethos stated. While it could be argued that this can be done without necessarily involving worship, it is fitting that within a community which has the Christian Gospel at its heart, such moments are offered to God in praise, thanksgiving or repentance. In collective worship pupils can be given the opportunity to share concerns, hopes and fears in a way which is not available within the curriculum, and to glimpse something of what it is to offer these to God in worship.

Aims of Collective Worship.

- To help children discover their place in the world
- To provide an opportunity for the children to reflect upon God and to give Him honour
- To make it possible, through worship, for children and adults, to get in touch with their spiritual dimension
- To provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of its variety of forms
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate Christian festivals
- To heighten the awareness of, and to engage with, the ultimate question and realities of life
- To enable children to appreciate their worth and value before God, and in the community
- To encourage pupils to use silence for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer
- To celebrate gifts, talents and achievements
- To establish and reinforce the common Christian values of the school such as love, peace, kindness, compassion and forgiveness
- To promote community spirit within the school through sharing experiences from all cultural backgrounds
- To make an important, though not exclusive contribution to the pupils spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- To teach children how to empathise with the needs of others
- To share stories and festivals in accordance with the major faiths. Tolerance and understanding of other religions is encouraged and comparisons to the Christian faith encouraged
- To acquaint children with people from the local and wider community, particularly the local church
- To encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues

- To foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy
- To give memorable and enjoyable experiences
- To provide an opportunity to bring before God in prayer personal needs and the needs of others
- To respond to the aesthetic – music, poetry, art, literature

In Collective Worship children and adults will be responding in different ways. It is the task of the leader to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised but in which everyone finds something positive.

Practice at Sutton CE (VC) School

Every pupil is entitled to a daily act of worship. This may be at any time in the school day and in any size of group.

Our hymn practices, achievement and sharing assemblies cannot be described as acts of collective worship. We turn these occasions into worship through the use of comments, prayers and active participation by the children and personal reflection.

During the school year we will hold special services at St. Andrew's Church. These services are usually led by the vicar or other minister. Other members of staff, parents and children also play an active part in these services. Within school, services are led by senior staff, the vicar and other Christian representatives.

The Headteacher and vicar will work together to plan the assembly themes on a termly basis. Governors will be made aware of these themes at the Teaching and Learning Committee. The themes will be planned to enable the children to experience a variety of formats and wealth of worship experiences and closely follow the themes outlined by Ely Diocesan.

Arrangements for Collective Worship

| <i>Day</i> | | <i>Leader</i> |
|------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Monday | Whole School | Headteacher |
| Tuesday | Whole School | Deputy Headteacher |
| Wednesday | Songs of Praise | Music Subject Leader/ Member of SLT |
| Thursday | Whole School "Celebration Assembly" | Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher |
| Friday | Whole School | Headteacher/Team Leaders |

Management of Collective Worship

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate Governors in conjunction with the Headteacher. It is the Headteacher who ensures that Collective Worship takes place on a daily basis in accordance with the law and the governors' wishes.

Parents Right to Withdraw

Should the need arise for a pupil to be withdrawn from Collective Worship, alternative arrangements will be organised in consultation with the parent/carer and the party responsible for supervising the pupil during the time Collective Worship is taking place.

Any such arrangements will need to be made in consultation with the Headteacher. This information can also be found in our School Prospectus which is updated annually.

Resources

The school allocates a budget every year for Collective Worship resources

Review

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher, Staff and Governors at the school every 3 years.