

Bishop Pursglove C of E (VA) Primary



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Aim

For our church school, Collective Worship is a highly valued part of the school day as it is the time when we gather together to affirm what is important to us, to our school and to our world. It provides an opportunity for pupils to worship God, whilst seeking to be relevant to, and inclusive, of all. It reflects our Anglican tradition as well as exploring with pupils and staff a variety of ways in which Christians worship God. In acts of Collective Worship in our school it is recognised that in our school community, some members will come from families with a commitment to the Christian faith, others from families with a commitment to another faith and yet others will have no particular commitment to any tradition. Therefore, the content and language of collective worship allows for different levels of response. It invites rather than coerces.

Legal Requirements

The school is a Church of England (Aided) school, and has a tradition of Christian worship and teaching, interpreted in ways appropriate to the ages and background of the pupils. There is a strong link between church and school, with church representatives leading collective worship regularly. The children also take part in Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' services in church every year, as well as services on pre-arranged Sundays. In addition, the church building and staff contribute to RE lessons.

Parents are informed of their right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship through information in the school brochure.

Delivery

The head teacher is responsible for ensuring that each pupil (unless withdrawn by parental request) takes part in an act of collective worship each day.

The weekly pattern for assemblies is currently as follows:

Monday: Whole school collective worship led by the Head Teacher

Tuesday: House collective worship led by children.

Wednesday: Collective worship by a visitor or member of staff.

Thursday: Whole school collective worship led by a visitor member of staff.

Friday: 'Celebration' collective worship led by a member of staff. Parents and relatives are invited to join this assembly.

Assemblies are predominantly of an explicitly Christian nature, although festivals from other religions are celebrated as well.

Pupils, whatever their beliefs, are encouraged to engage in a quiet and thoughtful way during the act of worship, thus contributing to a reflective and worshipful atmosphere. An opportunity for pupils to experience stillness and quietness is seen as an essential part of worship, and has an important part to play in their moral and spiritual development.

A wide range of approaches are used so that pupils can experience some of the variety of ways in which people can express their sense of awe, wonder, reverence, joy and sorrow: readings, music, pictures artefacts and drama/role play all feature. The children are encouraged to reflect on their own beliefs, as well as having a respect for beliefs of others.

Resources

Each half term a Christian value from "Values for Life" is chosen as a broad theme for collective worship.

The staff make use of a variety of resources for collective worship, for example, "Cracking assemblies" and "Roots and Fruit" other material from staff member's personal resources may also be used. We are also starting to use aspects of the Understanding Christianity materials within Collective Worship as they become embedded in our Religious Education lessons.

For songs of praise and hymns, we use the "Come and Praise" and "Mission Praise" books as well as Fischy music resources.