

Randwick Primary School: Resilience, Passion, Success



# Collective Worship Policy

Policy Leader	Kathryn Wilson
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Collective worship is central to the life and purposes of our church school and is fundamental to the development of our Christian foundation, vision, values and ethos. The Head teacher and staff are responsible for establishing this policy in consultation with the governing body. Policy and practice is informed by the vision and ethos of the school.

Collective worship provides a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story, the mutual giving and receiving of worth as well as times of reflection and prayer. At its best, collective worship is inspirational and transformational. Our school is a community which is inspired by the Christian understanding of God as Trinity God the father, the source of all being and life; God the Son, who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection; and God the Holy Spirit, who makes Christ known in the world. The fundamental part that worship plays in the life of the school requires that it is given the highest priority.

### **Legal Framework**

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils that takes account of their age and aptitude. The 1988 Education Reform Act states that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. However, collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, there is an expectation that parents wishing to request withdrawal will meet with the Head teacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

The governors in a Church school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist School (SIAMS) evaluation document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact worship has on the school community in consultation with the head teacher.

### **Aims**

Through collective worship in our school we aim to:

- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to respond to the presence, power and peace of God.
- Evoke a sense of beauty, awe and wonder.
- Enable children to become familiar with the Bible and biblical underpinning of the values. They will grow their appreciation that for Christians it is God's words.
- Provide opportunities for reflection, [participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can actively be involved and develop their own spirituality.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well-known Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship.

- Strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to, and reaffirming, the core Christian values which underpin the school's vision, policies, curriculum and moral code.
- Develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts that each child and adult brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God.
- Reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and learn to appreciate the significance of mystery i.e. that we can't understand and explain everything.
- Foster a concern for others within the school community and wider world. Deepen appreciation of the gift of the natural world and the importance of acting responsibly toward the environment.
- Encourage respect of other people's religious beliefs and practices

#### Management, Organisation and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective worship is led by all members of our school community:

- Head teacher
- Teaching Staff
- Pupils or group of pupils
- Our Reverend
- 'Open the Book' team
- Whole class

Across the week Collective Worship takes place as follows:

Monday: Whole School, led by the Head teacher in school

Tuesday: Whole school 'Open the Book' in Church

Wednesday: Whole school in school

Thursday: Whole School in school

Friday: Celebration worship when parents and friends are invited to join us in the church.

The act of worship can be whole school, within key stages or class to engage pupils in a variety of different learning styles, actively promote pupils spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by explorations, discovery and reflection. Worship will focus on our vision, the story of the Good Samaritan and the words of Teresa of Avila which have inspired our vision, our values, key festival throughout the church calendar and significant events.

It is our aim that pupils are active in worship daily:

- Worship monitors from Sparrowhawks class light a candle, choose a prayer and read it out loud to the whole school, support the younger children and set up the worship space.
- Children from across the school help teachers in leading worship and telling stories.
- Children from year 1 – 6 spend time during one of the terms, creating a worship to share with the school community at the end of the term.

The Act of Worship will be based on:

- 'Values for Life' and 'Roots and Fruits' published by Gloucester Diocese with a separate value for each term
- Special Events in the Christian Calendar
- Issues, which arise from the everyday life and ethos of the school

At specific times throughout the school year, celebrations of worship are held in the local parish church. Parents, governors and friends share in these services, which may be held during the Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the Leaver's Service at the end of the school year. Collective worship time in school will need to be distinct from other classroom activities, retaining a sense of occasion and togetherness. A windowsill is used with cloth to act as a focus for whole school acts of worship. In addition, the school has a collection of specific artefacts to add to this focus. Liturgy is an important part of our worship where there is always a focal point which includes a cloth of the liturgical colour of the season of the church year, a cross and a candle. There may be also be other focus items or pictures linked to our value.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

The contribution that Collective Worship is making to the whole curriculum and to the pupils' spiritual development will be monitored by the foundation governor, R.E. subject leader, head teacher and by pupils. This monitoring will take the form of observing collective worship and gathering pupil perceptions. All those leading collective worship are asked to plan their act of worship in as much detail as they would any other learning activity. Staff meetings provide an opportunity to review and evaluate the last terms acts of collective worship and to plan themes for the next term.

### **Evaluation of Collective Worship**

Following the planning or worship; the evaluation and recording, needs to be an integral part of the process. Worship can be evaluated by those leading the worship, other staff, the pupils for whom the worship is intended or member of the governing body. Feedback from any of these groups will help to improve the quality of worship offered to the pupils.

This policy is monitored by the school governing body and will be reviewed as part of an established cycle of school review or following changes to statutory legislation.