



Sharnford Church of England Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

INTRODUCTION

This policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's vision which is:

'Many hearts make our school nourishing, flourishing and fruitful.'

Jesus said, "I am the vine and you are the branches. If you stay joined to me, and I to you, you will produce plenty of fruit.

(John 15:5)

It supports and reinforces the aims of Sharnford School, valuing all children equally.

Collective Worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school. It is an oasis in the school day when the whole school community meets together and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. There are times when worship should be quiet, contemplative and serene and others when laughter, music and dance will be the appropriate form of expression. Collective worship is regarded as 'quality' time and represents something special or separate from ordinary school routine.

"Praise, prayer, silence, a sense of community, common ideal, the power of the spoken word, ritual, and an awareness of important experiences all contribute to worship."

DEFINITIONS

Worship: can be defined as paying homage to (revering) that which is of worth ("Worth-ship.") Religious Worship is the acknowledgment of 'worth' which is attributable to a supreme being. Worth can also be registered in other people and in values and attitudes.

School Assembly: is a gathering of the school community; it is often used to celebrate and focus on the life and values of the community itself.

Corporate Worship: is a gathering of a body ('corpus') of believers and pre-supposes a particular religious commitment.

Collective Worship: is a gathering of a 'collection' of people of diverse, religious, agnostic and non-religious backgrounds and does not presuppose any particular religious commitment.

NB: We note that Collective Worship and Assembly are not one and the same thing. They are, in essence, different from each other, but in practice they often overlap.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The legal requirement in Anglican schools is for worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and will, therefore, be wholly Christian in character. The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society.

RATIONALE – RELIGIOUS/EDUCATIONAL

Collective Worship:-

- Gives children the opportunity to enter into experiences which lie at the heart of religion. These experiences help them to learn about religious worship and provide a framework for later understanding;
- Fosters a reverential attitude to God;
- Encourages pupils to consider fundamental questions about the purpose of being and about moral and ethical stances;
- Allows us to learn and celebrate values we hold to be important;
- Brings children together, enabling them to experience the security of belonging to community with an identity of its own;
- Offers a source of much interesting and thought provoking knowledge;
- Offers pleasurable expression through literature, art, music and drama;
- Makes an important, though not exclusive, contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

The following principles guide our approach to Collective Worship at Sharnford School.

- Collective Worship should have a sense of occasion;
- Collective Worship should provide experiences within which pupils' spiritual development may flourish;
- Collective Worship should be a means of expressing the ethos and values of the school;
- Collective Worship should be educational and should contribute to the Religious Education of all pupils;
- Collective Worship should be shaped to the needs of the school, (time, place, content, style etc.);
- Collective Worship should provide a varied pattern of worship to broaden pupils' experience of its different forms;
- Collective Worship should recognise that the school includes children from different religious and non-religious backgrounds;
- During Collective Worship some will be worshipping and some will be experiencing something approaching worship; others will be finding out what it is like to worship by being with those who are.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of Collective Worship are to:-

- Affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God.
- Encourage children to know that God is alive and relevant to them.
- Introduce pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement and prayer.

- Create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere in assemblies, conducive to worship including the manner of entry and exit;
- Encourage, in children, a thoughtful and reflective attitude.
- Help pupils experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness.
- Enable pupils to use silence for reflection and contemplation.
- Raise pupil's curiosity about the ultimate mysteries of life.
- Enable pupils to learn about and consider in depth Christian teaching, Christian festivals and biblical material.
- Help pupils appreciate that we are 'stewards' of God's world.
- Enable pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to those of others.
- Enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Guide children towards the spiritual and religious options open to them.
- Help children distinguish between right and wrong.
- Affirm pupils' personal worth and responsibility.
- Celebrate individual and collective achievements.
- Develop a sense of community within the school.
- Celebrate religious festivals and special occasions with specified worship.

MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the Foundation of the school is honoured and that the worship policy is firmly based upon the intentions set down by the Foundation Governors..
 - Ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate Governor.
 - Engaging an appropriate inspector to carry out the Section 48 Inspection of a church school alongside the OFSTED Inspection.
- **The Collective Worship Coordinator** has responsibility for:
 - Managing the worship on a day-to-day basis, ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with.
 - Keeping in touch with national developments in school worship and acts in an advisory capacity, supporting colleagues.
 - Writing the school's policy for Collective Worship in consultation with the foundation governors and to review the policy on a regular basis.
 - Planning an overall balanced programme of worship for the year.
 - Drawing up assembly rotas.
 - Involving colleagues, pupils and visitors in worship.
 - Ensuring that Collective Worship maintains a high profile in the School Development Plan.
 - Monitoring and evaluating, with others, Collective Worship in all its forms.

ORGANISATION

Daily acts of Collective Worship, take place in the school hall from 9.00am – 9.15 am. Each week the worship follows a planned theme. The themes are planned in advance. We use the resources 'Simply Collective Worship' and 'Roots and Fruits'. The structure includes: music, a song of praise, a story or talk, a reading from the Bible, a period of reflection and a prayer (this may be the Lord's Prayer or the school prayer).

Day	Attending	Conducted by	Content
Monday	Whole School	Staff rota	Simply Collective Worship/Roots and Shoots
Tuesday	Whole School	Staff rota/singing	Simply Collective Worship/Roots and Shoots
Wednesday	Whole School	Open the Book Team/ visitor	Visitor – Simply Collective Worship Open the Book – own theme
Thursday	Class worship / class assembly	Singing worship/rota	Song linked to theme of the week
Friday	Whole School	Head of School	Celebration worship/class worship

Parents are encouraged to attend class worship if their children are taking part. Teaching staff attend Collective Worship every day. Visitors and outside speakers are invited to lead our worship on a regular basis.

ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP

"There are times when worship will be quiet, contemplative and serene and others when laughter, music and dance will be the appropriate form of expression."

Atmosphere is all-important in creating the right foundation for Collective Worship. Quiet, orderly behaviour and respectful attitudes on entering, leaving and throughout the assembly are expected. Staff enhance the atmosphere by their presence and participation. A focal point will be created using a display relevant to the worship theme, this will include: a cross, a bible, a trinity candle and a coloured tablecloth linked to the seasons of the church year.

Music is played at the beginning and end. This is chosen by the person leading collective worship and may be linked to the theme.

Stories and talks are carefully chosen to fulfil the objectives of Collective Worship. Stories of a religious or secular nature may be used whilst personal anecdote from pupils, teachers and visitors is effective in expressing that which is important in our own lives. Particular emphasis is laid upon helping children to understand themselves better, to develop empathy and to face up to moral issues.

Songs are chosen from a wide variety of traditional and modern hymns and songs. One or two are used at each assembly, relative to the theme. Hymns and songs create the opportunity for children to express thoughts and feelings that are difficult to put into words; and they provide a real source of pleasure.

Prayer and reflection are the most personal part of an act of worship. Collective Worship in school should provide opportunities for children to be taken to the threshold of prayer, and to cross it if they wish, in a way that respects the integrity of all present. Participation in prayer can never be imposed but we stress the need for stillness, reflection and respect for others. Silence, written prayers, impromptu prayers, The Lord's Prayer and the school

prayer may be used. Reflection and thinking time are given some direction by the leader in order to concentrate pupils' responses.

Scripture sentences may be quoted from the Bible and, where appropriate, from sacred books and writings of other world faiths. Longer passages may be used as readings.

Presentation sets the tone within the act of worship. In keeping with the reverent atmosphere, use is also made of visual aids, artefacts, drama, demonstration and short clips.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY

Collective worship is the 'heartbeat' of our church school community, providing a space where pupils and staff can come together to worship God, to reflect on life in all its fullness and allowing opportunities for all to grow spiritually. At Sharnford, we encourage Spirituality using a framework developed by Andrew Ricketts where the children reflect on:

Knowing themselves (self)

Valuing others (others)

Responding to world and beauty (beauty)

Thinking about things beyond (beyond).

CONTENT

Planning for Collective Worship is the responsibility of the Coordinator for Collective Worship together with the adult worship team. Whole school collective worship is planned using the themes suggested by 'Simply Collective Worship', Christian festivals and the school's chosen Christian values.

Links with R.E. and the Curriculum are incorporated wherever possible. Common themes link R.E. and Collective Worship. Assemblies can be followed up in the classroom by further discussion and emphasis throughout the day. There is often an overlap between Collective Worship and Personal and Social Education. **N.B.** *No worship programme can ever be entirely pre-planned. There will always be the spontaneous moment or occasion when it is important, spiritually, to focus on the immediate, so that pupils become aware of how the spiritual dimension transcends all our experience.*

RECORDS AND ASSESSMENT

Themes for Collective Worship are noted on the assembly rota, a copy of which is displayed in the Collective Worship folder and shared with staff. Monitoring of Collective Worship is carried out through:-

- checking that practice matches aims and objectives.
- observation of childrens' attentiveness and level of interest.
- written feedback from pupils in class Collective Worship Evaluation books.
- comments from parents. visitors and governors.
- the extent of the influence upon pupils' attitude and behaviour throughout the school day.
- self-evaluation/comment by the teacher.

Evaluations are considered by the coordinator and by the governor's SMSC committee. Children also evaluate Collective Worship in the class Collective Worship evaluation books, using the key questions that are displayed at the front of the hall to aid their thinking.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the

experience. The school prospectus informs parents of their right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship. Such pupils are fully supervised in another part of the school.

MULTICULTURALISM

A variety of multicultural material is available throughout the school. Stories and festivals are shared and tolerance and understanding of other religions is encouraged.

SPECIAL WORSHIP AND VISITORS

Within a Christian context, special worship is held for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and end of the school year. Parents, Governors and visitors are especially welcome to attend.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Collective worship should continue to happen whatever the circumstances as it is deemed to be an important part of school life. If there is a reason that the whole school community cannot meet together in the hall for collective worship then collective worship should take place in individual classes. A programme of collective worship should still be planned and followed but worship could either be live (using Zoom/Google Meets) or be pre-filmed and stored centrally for staff to access.

Day	Attending	Conducted by	Content
Monday	Whole School	Head of School	Simply Collective Worship Theme
Tuesday	Whole School	Class Teachers	Simply Collective Worship Theme
Wednesday	Whole School	Rector/ Open the Book Team/ visitor	Simply Collective Worship Theme
Thursday	Whole School	Class Teachers	Simply Collective Worship Theme
Friday	Whole School	Head of School	Celebration worship

REVIEW

The Governing Body will review this policy, formally, three years from the date of its adoption. Informal review may be necessary in the interim and should take place as and when required.

Signed: Role: Chair of Governors Mark Jones Date: 19/06/2024
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