



Collective Worship

Next review: Spring 2022

Pastoral Care

The quality of relationships between all members of school, staff and pupils, and the relationship with parents and carers is the area that is most commonly associated with the ethos of a church school. It is expressed in the terms of sharing and caring. Jesus was clear in His instructions to the disciples on this matter, "Love your neighbour as yourself" - Matthew 22:39, "This is my commandment: love each other" - John 15:17. Everyone associated with the school is made in the image of God and is to be loved. This is the commandment from which our school derives its policy for pastoral care.

We have a series of overlapping network of relationships that includes governors, staff, children, parents, church members and members of the community which the school seeks to serve. Our pastoral work will strive to meet the significant challenge to create and maintain such networks in ways that reflect the Gospel. Those who are in leadership roles, which include all who have a particular responsibility, ensure that by their personal example they set the highest standards expected.

It is from this premise that Christian love will pervade all aspects of life at school. It will influence our relationships with the children. It will affect how we value work and achievement of pupils and staff. It will be seen in the way in which the school environment is created and cared for; the way in which the needs of pupils, parents and community are met, and the way in which teaching and non-teaching staff work together effectively as a team.

Pastoral care pervades all aspects of school life and therefore will be reflected in the way the school is organised and the policies are written and implemented.

The school's worship policy is part of the school's pastoral system.

Introduction

Worship at school is in accordance with the guidelines recommended by the Diocesan Board of Education. The governors make the arrangements for collective worship after consultation with the head teacher. Worship is the central activity in the life of the school.

Christian values are definitely built into the school's ethos and teaching, and are reflected in the cycle of themes on which our daily acts of worship are based.

Rationale

Worship is not defined in the 1988 Education Act. The word worship is derived from an Anglo-Saxon word which means honour. In this sense it could be described as an experience that is separate from everyday activities in which reverence is paid to a divine power that is beyond humanity. Everyday experiences contribute to this overall experience of worship where they illustrate or enrich the theme. Worship seeks to give an expression to the living relationship between God and the worshipping community and between individuals within that community.

The rights of parents to withdraw their children

The governors recognise the parents' legal right to withdraw their child from collective acts of worship. However, in choosing to send their children to an aided school the governors hope that parents are thereby committing themselves and their child to participate in all those activities that reflect the school's Christian ethos.

If a parent requests that a child be withdrawn then they should be made aware of:

- worship is part of the corporate life of the school. It is the point where everyone comes together;
- the child will miss out on many aspects of school life, particularly where events such as Harvest and Christmas take place in the context of worship;
- worship is part of the ethos of the school and is also about sharing in common values;
- worship is an educational activity to which children are free to respond or not, and an understanding of and experience of worship is an essential part of religious education;
- withdrawal from collective worship will not remove the child from the Christian ethos of the school where spiritual values are constantly raised within the curriculum.

If parents exercise the right to withdraw their child from acts of worship then the following arrangements will apply:

- the pupil will be in the care of a member of staff;
- pupils will be on the premises and will produce work on a topical theme.

Arrangements for other faiths

As above, if parents wish to withdraw their child from collective worship.

Planning

Worship is organised and planned within the broad tradition of Anglicanism which underpins whole school worship and smaller group acts of worship.

There will be a timetable of the worship themes for each term as agreed with the senior management team.

Dates for visitors and leaders will be arranged.

Flexibility will be allowed for instant reaction to events in the news/ disasters/ celebrations/ sorrows/ joys.

The senior management team plans worship. They will take into consideration the views of governors, staff and, where appropriate, pupils. Planning related to dates, worship themes and leaders would take place at the beginning of each term.

Variety of content

1. Sharing, celebrating and taking note of common concerns and experiences - neighbours, social, national and international issues, school events.

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2. Reflection on significant experiences of life such as loss, joy, birth, beauty, wonder, fear, anger, thankfulness and mystery.
3. Voicing of rules and standards, how to treat others, self-discipline, good and evil.
4. Sharing, celebrating and taking note of the experiences of individuals within the school - loss, successes, welcomes, goodbyes, new siblings, and illness.
5. Celebrating the curriculum in the presence of God.
6. Reflecting on elements of faith - Bible stories, observing the cycle of the Anglican year, seasons and beliefs.
7. Conscious reflection on God and on prayer - finding God in the world and the nature of God.
8. Looking at the world - at pattern, change and order.
9. Festivals and special times of worship are arranged at the beginning of each term.

Themes will be pursued over a week or longer period with consideration given to continuity.

The separation of 'worship' and 'assembly'

Worship is designed to send pupils and staff away in a reflective mood; notices will come first so as not to distract from the worship atmosphere.

Visitors

Visitors bring different perspectives into the school and they can participate by:

- leading the worship;
- introducing their charity works;
- providing a personal viewpoint on faith or life issues;
- linking school to the community.

Visitors will know the parameters in which they can work and know exactly what is required of them. These may include:

- the theme/ format of worship;
- attendance at a previous worship/ freedom with the format of worship;
- information as to whether staff or pupils will be involved;
- a brief on ages and background of pupils;
- duration time of worship;
- equipment and resources available.

A formulated letter of invitation/ set of guidelines with the above details will be sent to each visitor.

Funding

Provision will be made to ensure resources are of the highest quality and reflect the importance of worship within the life of the school.

Resources

The head teacher is available to give advice and support to staff and visitors where the planning and delivery of collective worship is concerned.

Evaluation

Worship will be monitored to ensure that:

- agreed and planned content is being covered;
- a variety of approach and methodology is used;
- high standards and quality are maintained;
- staff have been well supported;
- worship has been led by a variety of leaders.

Collective Worship/ Assembly Arrangements

Monday	0955- 1015	Whole School
Tuesday	0900 - 0920 0955 - 1015	KS1 KS2
Wednesday	0955- 1015	Whole School
Thursday	0940- 1010	Individual class Church (when timetabled)
Friday	1500- 1525	Whole School

Monday and Wednesday: Head teacher leads, themes derived from bible stories/ moral tales/ festivals/ saints' days/ etc.

Tuesday: Staff rota.

Thursday: Individual teachers.

Friday: Head teacher leads Golden Box
AHT leads signing.

Regular contributors include,

1. Rev. Sam Hustwayte, St. Wilfrid's Church.
2. Rev. Mike Arnold, Baptist Church
3. The Riverside Church

Community involvement

Parents/ governors/ etc. attend special assemblies such as Harvest and Christmas.