

Policy for Collective Worship



In Smallwood Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary Academy, collective worship is in conformity with the ethos statement and the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England.

‘Smallwood School instils the love of learning into all who enters its doors; with God, Church and faith at the centre of its values.’

Collective Worship contributes to the working of our **School Philosophy** through our **Mission Statement** and the **aims** and **ethos** of the school, and therefore to the Christian Education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school.

Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils’ education. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and meditation exercises in the curriculum generally and usually at the end of the school day as well as graces before lunch.

Whatever the approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These would include:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity’s relationship with God;
- The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- The importance of prayer;
- The central symbols of Christianity;
- The cycle of the Church year.

The close links with, and use of the local Church is celebrated, as of November 2014 the Vicar will lead on a weekly basis for 2015 this is on a Tuesday. We have also fostered links with other local churches who also contribute to our worships e.g. New Life Church has an outreach workers who lead our worship once, every two weeks. During significant religious festivals this is extended to include class worships delivered across the school.

Collective Worship and Assembly.

The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply.

Worship in the school, while reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development of pupils.

The provision of collective worship conforms to Diocesan/District policy, we follow the Chester Dioceses Calendar, this including religious dates of the Christian and other World Religions calendar (as compiled by the Dioceses).

Worship and Religious Education are loosely interconnected at Smallwood Primary Academy.

Our Aims for worship are:-

Collective Worship will enable the whole school community to:-

Explore those questions which are important to everyone

Encounter a faith which is alive

Experience the joy of celebrating God's love

Family Service (First Sunday in the month) also presents the opportunity to take the Eucharist.

Worship for the whole school is held on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. The Vicar leads on a Tuesday, New Life Church lead on alternate Mondays, Wednesday is Hymn Practice (focused during times of significant religious festivals) led by staff and Mrs Darlington with a time for prayers and quiet reflection at the end. These days are delivered by teaching staff on a rolling programme. On Thursday we work collectively on RE across the school and time is spent in class collective learning about our faith and other faiths from around the world. This is also an opportunity for a class or Key Stage worship. Worship takes place between 1.10 – 1:30 am each day.

Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt. Frequently pupils are involved in leading worship or performing through drama or music.

Parents, family and governors are always welcome to join us and are especially invited to our Celebratory Assemblies which small groups or classes lead at least once a school year. We ensure that the atmosphere is conducive to worship by ensuring that suitable music is playing as the children enter the hall, the manner in which the children enter, i.e. older

pupils escort their buddies, how and where everyone sits (we all sit in a horseshoe shape with the leader in the middle).

A candle is lit when everyone is present to ensure that all have a focus.

Once worship has ended, notices by a different person may be announced to the children. Worship is organised on a termly basis and a timetable is put in place with the focus for each week carefully chosen. Staff are requested to reflect on their delivered worship on the timetable, ensuring continuous motivation to improve worship. This is further developed at "Family Service".

The legal requirements for Collective Worship in our school

(a) Legal Basis

Collective Worship in Church Schools is governed by the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

(b) Daily Worship

Daily Collective Worship has to be provided for every pupil. This worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, separate Key Stage groups, year groups or house groups or in classes but not in faith groups. Worship may take place at any time in the school day.

Worship in Church

Worship should normally take place on the school premises, but may take place in Church on special occasions and when the weather permits.

Parental rights of withdrawal

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship and this provision and its limitations are indicated in the school prospectus.

Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Head Teacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese or District. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures come into play and the matter will be **adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee** of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.

This policy was reviewed by the Head teacher, Staff and Governing Body. It will be reviewed every 3 years or earlier is necessary.

Signed: _____ September 2015.

Review Date: September 2016.