



Whixall C.E. Primary School

Worship Policy

Collective Worship at Whixall CE Primary School plays an important part in the life of our school. As a church school we view this time as an integral part of our ethos. It offers the whole school community opportunities to experience and reflect on the work, worth and worship of our school. This is set within the context of the community of our school which values and affirms every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, sex, ability, background or religion.

Our daily Act of Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. This requires worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England.

Our school has a long, well established relationship with St Mary's Churches in Whixall and Edstaston. Together we provide a wide and varied Collective Worship programme in which we encourage the children to be involved.

We also take into account DfE legislation:

Worship will be:

- appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of children;
- provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders;
- in sympathy with cultures and beliefs represented in the school;

We recognise the right of withdrawal from Worship for pupils, at the request of parents and for staff.

Children have a vital role to play in worship within our school. Our children help to plan and lead acts of worship in church and prepare daily acts of worship in school. This daily preparation includes setting up of our worship table, choosing appropriate music and songs, sharing thoughts, feelings, experiences and spirituality with their peers and writing and sharing prayers.

Outside worship time and in the general school day they promote with others our Christian ethos and values.

Aims

- to enhance the spiritual development and response of children;
- to foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence;
- to create an atmosphere in which God is both normal and natural;
- to foster a reverential attitude to God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- to foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways;

- to explore and enjoy praise, prayer, and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular);
- to affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God;
- to enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian adherents;
- to foster and value a search for a faith to live by;
- to encourage prayer as a daily part of our lives, by learning The Lord's Prayer, our class prayers, and prayers in response to situations.
- to learn about and reflect upon Christian Teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community;
- to worship together rather than apart (whilst taking into account the multicultural nature of our school community);
- to provide an evocative setting for worship, with comfort for pupils and staff;
- appropriate resources, including a spiritual focus.

The Foundation Governors have responsibility to ensure the Trust Deed of the school is honoured, in conjunction with the Local Governing Body, Executive Headteacher, staff and school community. The worship policy created articulates the management and delivery of this area of the curriculum.

The worship co-ordinator has responsibility for managing this area of the curriculum on a day to day basis, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with. This involves the production of a coherent programme for Collective Worship, which has continuity of Christian teaching and experience and such breadth and balance as is appropriate to the school community.

The worship coordinator also has responsibility for auditing and keeping records of resources and ensuring they are accessible to children and staff as appropriate. The worship co-ordinator liaises with the Executive Head teacher, staff, Reverend Wignall and our Diocesan advisor.

Organisation

At Whixall C.E. Primary School we have daily acts of Collective Worship following this pattern:

Monday: Whole school worship led by the staff

Tuesday: Whole school worship led by staff

Wednesday: Whole school worship led by Reverend Wignall

Thursday: Hymn Practice led by individual staff

Friday: Whole school celebration assembly led by the staff

Worship reflects the major festivals of the Christian calendar and explore social / moral and cultural issues. The children are also introduced to significant people who have shaped the world we live in today both from sacred and secular sources. Our worship sessions also provide an opportunity for listening and responding to music and a time for stillness and reflection.

Most of all we select themes that will stimulate the imagination of the children and engage their interest and commitment. By such active involvement it is hoped that the children will take on board the issues raised and reflect upon their lives and distinctive contribution they can make to our society.

Such broad themes could be:

- our school values
- friends;
- responsibility;
- new and old resolutions;
- caring;
- remembering;
- festivals e.g. Harvest;
- Christmas;
- Divali;
- Advent;
- famous people;
- feelings;
- families;
- seasons.

Co-ordinator: Headteacher
Governor Link: Foundation Governors

Written: May 2005
Agreed By The Governing Body and Staff: May 2005
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