

St Catherine's C of E Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Policy Statement

At St. Catherine's School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life.

Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote the basis of our mission statement:

'Inspiring children to be the best they can be'

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Christian Values

Although difficult to define, we identify the values of forgiveness, fairness, respect and tolerance of others, integrity, compassion, honesty and self worth.

These values are embodied in the Commandment that Jesus gave us:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday - Whole school worship led by the Headteacher

Tuesday - Key Stage1 worship led by the Headteacher.

Wednesday - Key Stage 1

Thursday – Key Stage 2

Friday – Key stage 2

Class teachers lead these assemblies on a rota basis.

When the classes do not gather together as a school or as a key stage, they have class worship or paired class worship.

Most Fridays at 3.00pm we have whole school assembly to celebrate the week's events and children's achievements and present the Child of the Week awards. The Clergy share in this celebration.

Each class leads a SEAL Assembly twice during the school year.

Whole school hymn practices, with prayer/reflection time, are led by members of staff on a rota basis take place once a week separately for KS1 and KS2.

Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for collective worship reflect the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events. The Head teacher is responsible for creating the Collective Worship Plan for each term.

The Head Teacher makes available resources, powerpoints etc for staff to use if they wish. Easy Worship is used to display hymns and presentations. Pupils take it in turns to operate the system for the services.

The Head Teacher will send the programme to the Rector so that the clergy are aware of and can share in the term's themes and focus areas.

The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music for the week.

The candles on the altar table are lit and the worship incorporates the children singing a hymn. The children are involved in the worship throughout and this finishes with a prayer. The children then lead out as the music is played.

Hymn practice includes the lighting of candles to focus the children's attention and aims to develop the children's understanding of new hymns as well as learning them. The session ends with a time for reflection or a prayer. The children leave in the same way as before.

Prayer and Reflection

Worship seeks to acknowledge the breadth of Christian denominations represented in the school.

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. This time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles. A cross is also displayed on the altar table.

At the end of the morning session, grace is said by either an adult or child in each class. Teachers say a prayer with their class at the end of the school day.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, St Catherine's School ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship.

Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge.

Our Churches are our most valuable and frequently used resources, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter Services.

The local clergy visit regularly to lead Worship.

Equal Opportunities and special needs issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of Worship.

This policy will be reviewed annually.