

Collective Worship Policy



Bramley Church of England VA Infant and Nursery School

Approved by: Governors

Date: March 2020

Last reviewed on: June 2018

Next review due by: June 2022

Rationale

As a Church of England school we provide a unique opportunity to introduce children to the wide tradition of Christian worship. An act of worship in a church school is an experience devised as a response to God. It is based on specific traditional Christian beliefs linked to the School's Vision and Values.

“Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path” Psalms 119 (105)

Rooted in Christian Values

Seek within

Wonder why

Reach out

Aim high

Within our school an Act of Collective Worship gives children an experience of Christian worship.

It introduces them to the variety and styles, context, language and rituals of worship. It establishes and reinforces the ethos of the school and places all children learning within God's world. It provides an opportunity to develop a variety of attitudes which include; *wonder, reverence, compassion, curiosity, commitment, reflection, self-awareness and empathy.*

Introduction

Recognising its historic foundation, the school aims to preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at Parish and Diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice fulfilling the deed of trust that the school serves the poor of the parish.

It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experiences it offers to all its pupils.

Aims and Purpose

Worship is one of the means whereby the school's Christian vision and values may be reflected and affirmed. It fosters a sense of awe, mystery and wonder, and offers pupils opportunities to make sense of the world and their experience. It encourages a sense of personal and community identity and is an expression of the relationship between God and the individual.

Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together in support of our aims. It permeates and underpins the life of our school; in assemblies, in class learning, at church services and through other activities and events.

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship are:

- to provide an opportunity to worship God
- to consider spiritual and moral issues
- to explore belief
- to develop respect for and sensitivity to the beliefs, culture and values of others.
- to encourage participation, reflection and response
- to develop a sense of community spirit
- to express the school's ethos and reinforce positive attitudes

Format of Act of Worship

- Acts of Worship are held each day for 15 minutes.
- Children enter the Hall quietly and sit, whilst listening to music.
- Children are given the opportunity to reflect at this time.
- The elements of worship used are music, prayers, bible readings, stories, reflection and silence.

The focus of the assembly is developing Christian Values and Spirituality and each theme is linked to the value for that half term. These Christian values are displayed on the entrance board and in the hall and classrooms. Collective worship links the values to the Bible and included on the displays are examples of how Jesus/God show each value.

We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, a cross, candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. The Anglican foundation of the school is reflected in its Worship. Themes relate to the cycle of the Church's year and to events of personal, social or national significance. The Bible is used as a source of knowledge and inspiration.

Traditional prayers are learnt and used, as well as personal more spontaneous ones. Children are encouraged to take part and lead prayers. Hymns are mostly modern with language appropriate to the age of the children, but some traditional ones are learnt to facilitate participation in church services. Worship is led by staff, by clergy from our parish churches or representative in their absence.

On a Friday members from the 'Open the Book' team lead the Assembly, which is based on Bible stories. Parents are invited to share these each term.

We invite parents to join the school in worship once or twice a term. At Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas and Easter, school worship takes place in the parish churches. We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

Our prayer space in school is a link to collective worship and offers an opportunity for anyone at school to be still, reflective and if desired prayerful. The school works with Holy Trinity to extend prayer spaces within the church and, therefore, to offer this experience to the wider community.

Acts of Worship at Bramley Church of England (VA) Aided Infant School

Main Elements: Music

Entrance – children come in quietly and sit down

Focus, Singing, Story, Prayer, and Reflection – the order of these may

Celebration: Achievements

Exit: Children leave the Hall in classes

In addition the children say prayers in class:

- At lunchtime
- At home time

Class assemblies occur throughout the term.

Our assemblies and all gatherings for collective worship will promote the following behaviours:-

- Empathise with others.
- Appreciate the beauty of the world.
- Follow values and be willing to stand up for what is right.
- Care for yourself and others and find inner strength and resilience when faced with challenges.
- Be still and silent and open to reflect and pray.
- Be intrigued by mystery.
- Forgive yourself and others.
- Take risks and learn from success and failure.
- Be thankful for what is good in life.
- Show generosity towards others.
- Be curious and open-minded when exploring life's big questions.
- Be intrigued and question

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and Collective Worship Policy Summer 2019 Page 4 was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Head teacher keeps a record of all children who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

As a Church of England Aided School, the Foundation Governors have a particular responsibility for monitoring collective worship, alongside the Children and Learning Committee.

This policy should be read alongside all school policies but relates especially to the following policies and documents:-

<http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk> "God at the Centre" - guidelines for collective worship

Learning and Teaching Policy

Religious Education Policy

Equality and Diversity Policy

Bramley C of E (VA) Infant and Nursery School Vision and Values

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education Policy

RSHE Policy