

FOREST OF GALTRES ANGLICAN METHODIST PRIMARY SCHOOL Policy for Collective Worship

Our Collective Worship runs in line with our vision around the school community being ‘rooted and grounded in love’ (Ephesians 3), and helps pupils to understand our 5 Commitments of Care, Creativity, Collaboration, Courage and the Christian Faith within a spiritual context.

This Collective Worship policy has been designed with our school community in mind. It reflects the law (the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act & the DFE guidance on Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in Schools) and strengthens the distinctive ethos of the school as an Anglican Methodist primary school.

Introduction

Forest of Galtres Anglican Methodist Primary School is required to provide daily collective worship for children (except for those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually part of a daily assembly. The Headteacher/leader for Collective Worship and the lay Chaplain are responsible for arranging the daily act of collective worship, in consultation with the governing body.

‘Consider, with deep and frequent attention, the peculiar circumstances in which you stand’

In accordance with the school’s Trust Deed, it must also reflect the Anglican and Methodist character of the school, although its precise nature may vary according to contextual considerations such as the ages and level of understanding of the children. As an Anglican Methodist school we see Collective Worship as central to school life and as something which should have a positive effect on the behaviour and attitudes of all throughout and beyond the school day.

Through Collective Worship we are committed to developing the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of learners, including the following:

- A recognition that there is something more to life than the ordinary
- Acknowledging the capacity of children to reach beyond the everyday experiences of life
- Development of the inner spiritual and reflective life of staff and children
- A search for meaning
- A shared understanding of common traditions and values
- A sense of the transcendent
- Wonder and delight at being alive in the modern world with all it means and offers
- Expression of emotions and feelings in a supportive context
- **‘Watching over one another in love’**: a sense of community and strong, caring relationships between people
- Developing attitudes, behaviour and responsibilities towards each other, reflecting the school’s vision and values

- An age-appropriate awareness of honesty, courage, tolerance, understanding and perseverance

Aims of Collective Worship

- **‘For all, for all’**: to enable children to engage with worship, at an age-appropriate level, as both participants and leaders
- To enable children to explore and respond to a variety of forms of worship, enabling those children with a religious commitment to deepen their experience of worship, and to allow those without a religious commitment to begin to appreciate what worship means for others
- **‘Let everyone enjoy the full and free liberty of thinking for himself’**: to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues and the many questions which relate to life
- To acknowledge the things which have meaning, value and purpose for the children as individuals, as well as for the school and the wider community
- **‘The world is my parish’**: to develop a sense of community within and beyond the school
- To celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to individual children within school, to the school as a whole, or to the wider community
- To acknowledge and respect difference and diversity
- To explore traditions from Christianity as appropriate, including recognising the school’s distinctive joint character as an Anglican Methodist school

Guidelines

When planning Collective Worship, use is made of the ‘Collective Worship Guidelines’ from NYCC and the ‘Worship Works’ document from the Diocese of York, as well as other resources such as ‘Flippin Praise’ and ‘Roots and Fruits’. Collective Worship may take place in class, in the school hall, outdoors or in Holy Evangelists’ Church, Shipton or at other locations such as York Minster. Collective Worship may be led by school staff, the school chaplain, children, governors, visitors or faith leaders from the Anglican, Methodist or other churches.

The Headteacher and Lay Chaplain plan the themes for each half term and make these available for all staff and visitors to follow. In planning, use will be made of guidance from the Diocese and the Methodist Circuit. Where appropriate, ELSA themes and key dates in the Christian calendar will also be incorporated. When leading Collective Worship, staff should consider the following elements:

- Giving time for stillness and reflection, and the exploration of inner thoughts and feelings linked to the half-termly focus value and the weekly themes
- Providing opportunities for children to share what is important to them

- Celebrating what is worthwhile in children's own lives and in the context of the school, the local area and the wider community of modern Britain and British values.
- Creating an atmosphere conducive to a sense of peace and tranquillity
- Providing opportunities for children to use all their senses
- Fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect
- Providing opportunities for children to ask and answer 'big questions'
- **'Singing the faith'**: using a range of activities such as singing, dancing, drama, prayer
- Providing a special time separate from ordinary school activities
- Ensuring that the elements of Gather-Engage-Respond-Send are included, including use of worship resources and artefacts

Where children are out of school, for example on a residential visit, provision should be made for appropriate Collective Worship to take place. This may take place outdoors or in the evening, and will take a different format according to the setting.

Parental rights

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from all or part of the programme of collective worship. Parents do not need to explain their reasons for this, although they are encouraged to discuss it with the Headteacher. The school remains responsible for the supervision of children withdrawn from collective worship unless the child is taking part in collective worship elsewhere.

Monitoring and evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship will take place within the school's monitoring timetable. It forms a key part of the work of the school Ethos Group. At other times families, staff and children may be consulted about the impact of collective worship. The impact of Collective Worship will be detailed through the SIAMS Toolkit, and will also be reported on to the Hope Learning Trust Church Schools Scrutiny Committee.

March 2018