

Forest of Galtres Anglican Methodist Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctiveness of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of care, collaboration, courage, creativity and Christian Faith and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community.

Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and Methodist Church, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of collective worship is central to our Anglican and Methodist ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

In Church of England schools, collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives.

Collective worship, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this.

Collective Worship at Forest of Galtres Anglican Methodist Primary School is planned to:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.
- Be inspirational and inclusive, engaging all learners. They can talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school

- Help all learners to understand Anglican, Methodist and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- An opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in relevant communication with Parents - contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

This policy and our school fully supports the inclusion of all and follows our equal opportunities policy.

Planning Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We mark out this special time by lighting a candle. Each person leading worship is expected to plan their act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4 stage structure of planning including 'Gathering' 'engaging' 'responding' 'sending'. There is also space for evaluation. A worship-planning group meets regularly led by our Chaplain. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last terms Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term. The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the School's Church Ambassadors. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning leading and monitoring of Collective worship.

Our Foundation Governors, alongside the Headteacher, have a role in monitoring Collective worship through membership of the Ethos Committee at the school. There are a number of resources available to form the basis of collective worship planning. The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by the Headteacher and the Chaplain.

Our pattern of Collective Worship

Whole School Worship is held three times a week. These are taken by The Reverend, Headteacher or Chaplain.

Key Stage worship is held once a week. These are taken by class teachers.

Class worship is held once a week. These are taken by class teachers.

Visitors have included Open the Book.

Acts of worship follow themes that are linked to the schools vision and values and include the pattern of the church's year.

Visitors

Visitors understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. The Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship

Certain named individuals (Reverend and Chaplain) are involved on a regular basis with the worship programme. Other staff and pupils are given the opportunity of being involved in this programme every term.

Monitoring and evaluation

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our Ethos Group and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York (SIAMS).

Policy agreed by Board of Governors: November 2022