



Castleton C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed October 2014

Introduction

As a Church of England Voluntary Controlled school we define collective worship as worship that reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief. We believe that collective worship should provide children with the opportunity to be part of a daily experience that is special and separate from other daily activities. Collective worship forms an integral part of our aim to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child.

Aims

We consider Christian values to underpin the whole ethos of the school.

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage pupil participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit
- to celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school
- to celebrate and respond to Christian festivals and symbolism
- to provide the opportunity experience stillness and quiet
- to help pupils to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- to provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future
- to promote our common Christian ethos and shared values.
- to provide support to the children as they develop their own understanding and spirituality.

Statutory Requirements

Collective worship at Castleton Primary School complies with the legal requirements as set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The law states the 'Collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character which means that it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief '.

Collective Worship at Castleton C of E Primary School is an inclusive activity. Parents do have, of course, the right to withdraw their children from this element of the school day. Parents who have any concerns about the provision and practice of our Collective Worship are strongly encouraged to contact the Headteacher.

Context of Collective worship

Our acts of worship vary daily. Our pattern is set out below:

Monday	-	Whole school (on the first Monday of every month the Collective Worship takes place in St Edmunds Church)
Tuesday	-	Whole School – Collective Worship Programme
Wednesday	-	Whole School, delivered by visitors on a theme
Thursday	-	Whole School Collective Worship Programme

Friday - Whole school (celebration of achievements for the week)

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship. We aim to use a creative approach to the daily act of worship using a range of delivery techniques including: stories, music, slides, art, poems, pictures and posters and dvds all of which we hope contribute to a stimulating and thoughtful time for our children.

The children are encouraged to take an active role in planning Collective Worship and contribute ideas, select music and write prayers on a regular basis.

Links with local Vicar are very strong and he is a regular visitor to the school in a pastoral role as well to enhance Collective Worship and links with the community.

Resources

Resources for Collective Worship have recently been reviewed and new resources have been purchased. As a staff we agreed to adopt the resource 'Values for Life' and use it as the basis for our planning a programme of Collective Worship themes.

Planning and Review

Staff plan the programme of Collective Worship at dedicated staff meetings. Review of provision to date plays an important part of this process.

Equal Opportunities

The staff and Governors are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from collective worship, whatever their gender, ethnicity, physical or mental abilities. Every attempt is made, therefore, to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests and reflect the multicultural society we live in.

Monitoring and Evaluating

Evaluation of the effectiveness of the Collective Worship Policy will be done through:

- An annual audit through staff, parent and pupil questionnaires
- Giving the children opportunities to express their thoughts on Collective Worship
- Involvement of Governors in the monitoring and evaluating of the work in school

Signed: Headteacher **Date:**.....

Signed: Chair of Governors **Date:**.....

Review: Autumn 2017