

BROAD CHALKE CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement: With the love of God, we learn, care, grow and share

Aims

As a Church of England Aided School we regard Collective Worship as an important and valued time for staff and children to share together. The act of Collective Worship should:

- encourage the children to see worship as relevant to everyday life
- help children to prepare for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences that they will encounter in later life.
- extend links with the Church
- foster a feeling of community within the school as well as helping to establish a caring atmosphere.
- promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
- stimulate a feeling of awe and wonder, enabling us to come closer to God.

For the adults or children involved it may be an affirmation of their own faith or it may lay the foundation for further Christian experience.

Approach

The Act of Collective Worship will be broadly of a Christian character or based on the Christian calendar, and will reflect the traditions of Christian belief, but it may occasionally include material from other religious traditions. Pupils will have opportunities to learn about other faiths through the RE curriculum. The approach to the Act of Collective Worship will vary, but it will often consist of:

- a teacher-led stimulus, often with a visual focus
- a variety of activities in which the children can share responses and sometimes will participate in activities.
- an active learning approach with pupil participation.
- appropriate music will be used to set the tone of the worship and there will be opportunities for thought and silence.
- the children will normally join together in singing and in saying the Lord's Prayer.

The hall, and each classroom, has a focal area for Worship. A candle will usually be lit to signify the presence of Jesus, the Light of the World. There is a rota for Year 6 children if they wish to hold the candle whilst it is lit and be in charge of the music for Collective Worship.

Organisation

- Four days a week the Collective Worship will be a whole school event.
- Once a week there will be a class Collective Worship.
- Once a week Collective Worship will take the form of a hymn practice.
- Once a week Collective Worship will normally be led by a Minister of the local church.
- The Act of Collective Worship will normally take place in school and will normally be the first collective activity of the school day.
- Every Friday there will be a celebration assembly where the school celebrate and congratulate the good work or behaviour which is happening in and outside of school. There is an open invitation for parents to attend this Act of Worship.

- At least three times per year, an Act of Collective Worship will be held in the Parish Church. This involves parents and friends of the school and will sometimes be led by a member of the local Team Ministry eg explaining communion.
- Occasionally, visitors (e.g. local charity organisers), will be invited to talk to the children on specific subjects.
- 'Open the Book' worship will be led by Christians from the local community over a 4 week block, 3 times a year.
- The children will lead services in Church such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the Leavers Service.
- Children in Year 5 and Year 6 plan and lead class worship on a rota. There is also a school worship group who plan and lead whole school acts of worship once a term.

Planning, Continuity and Recording

Planning for the school's collective worship will be done termly in advance by the Collective Worship co-ordinator (currently the Headteacher). A copy is given to each member of staff and to the Clergy and kept for reference in the Collective Worship folder in the hall.

The Act of Collective Worship will be in accordance with the themes identified for that term. The themes are based on the Diocesan Values for Life Scheme and the new Diocese recommended resource Roots and Fruits. Staff should make sure that the worship is:

- Inclusive, appropriate and relevant to the children
- Conducive to building a relationship with God
- Inspiring, in that it creates feelings and senses from which worship can arise e.g. a sense of beauty, awe and wonder; awareness of thankfulness; feelings of compassion, peace, sadness or joy
- Spiritual, by creating a special atmosphere and time for stillness and reflection
- Educational, offering a learning experience

When choosing materials for Collective Worship consider using something which: -

- Will interest pupils and hold their attention
- Connects with their everyday lives
- Triggers their imagination
- Prompts further thoughts
- Can be interpreted at different levels of understanding
- Offers the beginnings of spiritual dimension

The school has devised a simple order of service to help all leaders of collective worship to know the normal format and form of greeting as well as the key themes to remember:

1. The centrality of worship to our school
2. The value being taught this term
3. The 4 core values of our school: Caring, Sharing, Learning, Growing
4. The Trinity

Legal Status

The Act of Collective Worship in Broad Chalke Primary School is the responsibility of the Governing Body in consultation with the Head Teacher. It will be carried out in accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act and with the Trust Deed of the school, in accordance with the principles and teachings of the Church of England; although in accordance with modern ecumenical good practice it may reflect and draw upon non-Anglican (Christian) traditions. The policy for Collective Worship has been drawn up by

the Head Teacher, in consultation with the teaching staff and with the approval of the Governing Body.

Rights of Withdrawal

We would hope that all parents would be supportive of our Christian ethos but they do have the right to ask that their children be withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, staff do not have this right in an aided school whatever their own religious stance.

Provision for Monitoring and Review

The school practice, which should enable the children to develop in accordance with the stated aims of the Policy, will be reviewed by the Head Teacher, staff and the Governors annually. The school has devised a simple format for monitoring and evaluating collective worship which can be used to give feedback. This was introduced in autumn 2014 and should take place at least once a term by members of the whole school community. The Collective Worship policy itself should be revised every two years.

Date Ratified by FGB: Spring 2013

Reviewed: January 2015, Spring 2017

Next review due: Spring 2019