

Ramsgate Holy Trinity C.E.(Aided) Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Approved by: Learning & Development
Committee

Date: 4.11.2021

Reviewed: November 2021

Next review due : November 2023

Update Record

Update (Date)	Page	Signed

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Faith: To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see. Hebrews 11:1.

Hope: Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my saviour, and my hope is in you all day long. Psalm 25:5

Love: Serve one another in love. Galatians 5:13

Collective worship is regarded as central to the affirmation of our Christian values of Faith, Hope and Love, as well as our underlying values and the distinctive character of the school. It offers important opportunities to strengthen our community, reinforcing the positive feelings we have for one another. Collective worship also makes a valuable contribution to our children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Although we expect all of our children to attend collective worship, we endeavour to make it an invitational experience, in recognition of the different faiths/ non-faith represented by in our school community.

1. Aims

The broad aims of collective worship include:

- To introduce pupils to the experience of Christian worship and teaching in an open and caring atmosphere;
- To foster a sense of unity by valuing and celebrating belonging to a caring school within the wider Christian community;
- To provide opportunities for expressing thankfulness and wonder for God's creation;
- To develop a sensitivity towards an awareness of the spiritual dimension of life;
- To enhance the spiritual, moral and cultural development of pupils by encouraging reflection on moral and social issues;
- To create an awareness of our own moral responsibilities by drawing on Christian teachings and other resources;
- To encourage pupils to reflect on their own values and those of others;
- To allow pupils to experience Anglican traditions and to encourage understanding and tolerance towards others;

- To enable pupils to express and understand their faith in a school setting;
- To foster school unity by celebrating the achievements of others.

2. Collective worship and the law

We comply with the legal requirement that every child should be provided with a daily act of worship, unless withdrawn by his/her parent.

As a voluntary aided school the act of worship must satisfy the trust deed of the school that the worship is consistent with Anglican belief and practice.

According to the Education Act 1988 Section 9(3), parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of worship and the responsibility of the child remains the duty of the school.

As a Church School, with a clear statement of its commitment to Christian values, it is hoped that all parents would wish their children to take part in the provision for collective worship and would discuss any concerns with the head teacher before applying to withdraw their children.

3. Organisation

Acts of worship take the form of whole school assemblies, class worship, Key Stage assemblies, whole school 'Praise and Reflection' and services at Holy Trinity Ramsgate.

Whole school assemblies may be led by the Headteacher, a member of the clergy, groups of children, a member of teaching staff or visitors from organisations such as charities.

Services are held in the church at Easter, Harvest and on other occasions as appropriate. At these services the pupils, taken from all year groups, take an active part in the preparation and delivery: through writing their own prayers, readings, selecting of hymns and contributions made through music, artwork and drama. Parents are invited to attend these services.

All class teachers are committed to the value of collective worship in promoting Christian values and developing the overall ethos of the school. Class worship involves children in a range of activities to encourage a sense of the act of worship being a special occasion and that religious ideas are not only expressed verbally.

Praise and Reflection gives an opportunity for children to explore the significance and meaning of the words sung in hymns and choruses appropriate to the Christian calendar and season. A time of quiet reflection is given and individual children or staff are given the opportunity to offer a prayer.

4. Planning and Co-ordination

Whole school assembly themes are drawn up for each term in line with the Diocesan Board of Education Collective Worship Framework: 'A Fresh Approach Towards

Collective Worship', thus ensuring assemblies have a clear focus and continuity. The Collective Worship co-ordinator distributes a list of these to teaching staff to enable assembly themes to be explored / referred to in class worship and curriculum lessons.

The co-ordinator is also responsible for the planning, preparation and coordination of the services held in the parish churches.

5. Delivery and Content

The acts of worship are designed to be appropriate to the age range and abilities of the children in the school.

Although the format of individual acts of worship differ in content, the aim is to provide a varied range of styles and experiences, which include listening, singing, reflective silence and prayer.

Active worship is invitational.

Children participate actively in their classroom-based worship, in 'Praise and Reflection', in special church services and informally during other assemblies as invited by the worship leaders.

6. Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation

A central record of whole school worship is maintained by children. The coordinator keeps this record list of the date, theme/ content and leader of the worship.

Staff attend the daily acts of worship regularly, with all teaching staff present for Clergy led assemblies. Governors also attend from time to time.

7. Resources and Budgeting

A variety of resources are available to support collective worship, including books, magazines and CD music. Resources for collective worship are obtained from a dedicated budget allocation. This Government pays for copyright licensing.

8. Church Links and Use of Visitors

The collective worship co-ordinator liaises with clergy, and other groups such as charitable organisations, over practical arrangements and worship content. Live worship music is provided during the week by our music co-ordinator.

9. Review

This policy will be subject to review and revision by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator.

Signed..... Date.....

(Chair of Governors/Headteacher)