

Collective Worship Policy

This policy was drawn up in accordance with our Trust Deed which states that our Collective Worship should be in union with The National Society.

Entitlement

All children will take part in a daily act of worship, unless their parents have exercised their right to withdraw their children on the basis of their own beliefs.

Withdrawal

Our daily act of Collective Worship is central to the way of life of this Church School and is *not* an occasion for proselytising. Parents have

"the right to request that their child be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at the school" [1989 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3)]

Any children so excused will be supervised.

All teachers in this school lead acts of Collective Worship.

Aims and Objectives

- ✓ To give pupils the opportunity to be present at, and participate in an act of worship, but at the same time respecting individual faith stances
- ✓ Through Collective Worship, the staff and pupils collaborate in developing the whole school ethos of a Christian, caring community
- ✓ To promote a sense of occasion
- ✓ To promote positive attitudes and feelings of worth thus heightening self esteem
- ✓ To understand and discover personal feelings of joy, sorrow, grief, anger and to begin to understand those feelings
- ✓ To be aware of the spiritual experiences of others
- ✓ To be introduced to some of the rich traditions of the Church of England

Nature of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in school contributes to the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of all pupils, regardless of their religious commitment. It is the forum in which we acknowledge the larger world we inhabit and where we are touched by mystery and awe.

At Friskney School, Collective Worship is the school community coming together to share an act of Christian Worship which is:

- ❖ Paying reverence to God and nurturing an awareness of awe, wonder and mystery at the creative power of God
- ❖ Evoking an appropriate spiritual response

Collective Worship may be the whole school gathering together or it may be the gathering of a class or Key Stage. The basic elements of Collective Worship provide opportunities for:

- Prayerfulness - implies the presence of God
- Thoughtfulness
- Expression of Christian values and ethos
- Being positive
- Creating a sense of belonging
- Gaining experiences of what our school holds of worth
- Reflection
- Education
- Enjoyment
- Sharing of experiences
- Reflecting the rich traditions of the Church of England
- Reflecting the school's values
- Recognising cultural diversity
- Celebrating individual/group/school successes

Implementation

Acts of Worship take place in the school hall, in classrooms and on occasions, in the Church.

- Teachers lead Key Stage Worship.
- The Priest in Charge leads KS2 worship weekly, and on occasions leads whole school worship.
- Worship through Hymn singing takes place weekly.

- The local Methodist Minister will lead whole school worship on a regular basis, depending on his/her commitments.
- A celebration of good work takes place once a week (Good Work Celebration), currently Fridays.
- Parent Assemblies are held by each class once a year.
- We attend church for Harvest Festival, All Saints Day (when school is in session for this day), Christingle, Easter, Presentation Day, Leavers' Service and in times of local or national issue.

Each act of worship will be prayerful, joyful, positive and will express Christian values and promote a Christian ethos.

Acts of worship *may* also include symbolism, ritual, song, Lord's Prayer, formality of a church service, liturgy, visits from other faith members, multi-cultural issues.

There will be a balance between formal, informal, poetry, drama, speech, silence, music, song, questioning.

We believe that silence should be encouraged and held in high regard.

We believe that praise and worship through song should be held in high regard.

A record of the acts of worship which has taken place is available on request from the Head.

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator, currently Mrs Y S Shaw, plans themes for the daily Act of worship. KS1 and KS2 themes are planned on a half termly or termly basis with opportunities for flexibility to accommodate local or national issues. The style and presentation of the worship is not prescribed; hymns and music are suggestions only and for teacher guidance; staff are free to choose music of their own. Our themes reflect:

- The main Christian festivals of Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Whitsun, Saints' Days. High priority is given to the celebration of Christmas; the culmination of the work at this time are the Christmas Plays which are the school's gift to the community and the Christingle Service held in Church on the last afternoon of the Autumn Term. At this school, we always write Christmas and *never* Xmas - we don't leave Christ out of Christmas.
- Human experience
- The environment - our own and global issues
- Faith issues including those of other faiths and no faith
- Self and others
- Celebrations
- God's creatures

It is anticipated that speakers from other denominations and faiths join our acts of worship.

The Foundation Governors wrote this policy after consultation with:

The Head
Diocesan Director of Education
Diocesan RE Advisor
The Staff
'Open the Door' The National Society
DfEE circulars
The Trust Deed of the School, held in Lincoln by the DEB
National Society Publications.

This policy was first agreed by the Governing Body at its meeting 18/6/96.

Reviewed 11/9/97
Reviewed 23/10/02
Reviewed 16/2/06