

Collective Worship Policy

'Let all that you do, be done in love' 1 Corinthians 16:14

Collective Worship at St Leonard's C.E First School & Nursery plays an important part in the life of our school.

It offers the whole school community opportunities to experience and reflect on the work, worth and worship our school. This is set within the context of the corporate community of our school which values every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, sex, ability, background or religion.

1. Aims and purpose

1.1 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 participation and response;
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- To teach children how to worship.

2. Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special art or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating. We invite everyone to take an active part in the time of worship.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base our collective worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct ourselves in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.3 The majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian.

3. Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold daily a daily act of worship in our school. This forms part of an assembly with the whole-school or a class assembly. Classrooms, the village hall and St Leonard's Church are used for acts of worship, we aim to visit the church half-termly.

3.2 We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We inform children that it is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and invite them to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and candles or other objects which act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

3.3 The act of worship may be led by the Headteacher, another member of staff, the vicar or invited guests.

3.4 We take the themes of our Christian worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar as set out in the Diocesan Resource Handbook. Sometimes the themes of our collective worship reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

3.5 We plan each half-term as part of a series of themes and visitors who regularly lead our assemblies are informed of these. We refer to 'Understanding Christianity and Roots & Fruits 1 & 2'. Our collective worship follows this pattern:

- Monday: whole school, teacher led, based on a school value
- Tuesday: class, teacher led, building on Monday's worship
- Wednesday: Headteacher led, focusing on key Christian concept
- Thursday: class, teacher led, based on Picture News
- Friday: Headteacher led, celebration worship

This pattern will alter at times when we celebrate events of local, national and international significance.

3.6 Our collective worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate too. They sometimes share a piece of work with the other children or raise issues that have been discussed in class. It is an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the Christian Distinctiveness of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. St Leonard's C.E First School & Nursery is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children.

3.7 We welcome our Local Academy Council (LAC) attendance at any time.

4 Right of withdrawal

4.1 We invite all children to attend worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

4.2 The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

5.1 It is the role of the Headteacher and school LAC member with responsibility for religious education and collective worship, Mr David Woodward, to monitor the practice of collective worship. The collective worship co-ordinator may give assistance with this.

Miss C. Phillips, Headteacher

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