

St. Paul's CE VA Primary School, Chipperfield

Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

Our school was formed by a Trust Deed as the school of the parish of St. Paul's Chipperfield and has retained close links with the Parish Church. Collective Worship is therefore in accordance with the "Principles and Practices of the Church of England."

The ethos as laid down in the school's Instrument of Government is: -

"Recognising its historical foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils."

Our school motto: "**Love to Learn; Learn to Love**" encompasses our belief and vision that our children will achieve and demonstrate the Christian values of love, honesty, understanding and respect for others through working together as part of school; church; village and world communities.

Collective worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school. It is an oasis in the day when the community meets together in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and is given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is quality time and represents something special and separate from the ordinary school routine.

Aims

The aim of this policy is to provide for our school community to have a variety of opportunities to:

- Worship God
- Develop the skills of reverence, contemplation, reflection, empathy and meditation
- Reflect on values and our own beliefs
- Develop a sense of community and shared ethos
- Consider spiritual and moral issues.

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of worship for all pupils (which can take place at any time of day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups).

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be considered as part of the RE lesson (for time purposes).

In this voluntary aided school, responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the governing body after consultation with the Headteacher. All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. Children may be withdrawn from assemblies, on religious grounds, on the written request of parents after consultation with the headteacher.

Collective Worship at our School

Collective worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it: -

- Those who form part of a worshipping Church community;
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of Church;

- Those from other Christian traditions, or none.
- Those from other faith backgrounds

Collective worship at our school is more than a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life.

Organisation

A form of collective worship takes place every day for approximately 15 to 20 minutes. This may be extended when we have “special” acts of worship, for example at Church, or have visitors. Children in the Foundation Stage have their own shorter collective act of worship each morning in class, apart from on a Friday when the Reception children come to sharing assembly.

Themes for assemblies are planned by the Headteacher and vicar at half termly planning meetings. They consider the Church Year, Diocesan guidelines, our Values Education and needs arising from within the school community when planning assemblies. A log of assemblies is maintained and this is revisited when evaluating and planning collective worship at half termly meetings.

A variety of assemblies take place within the week. E.g.

Monday	School assembly led by Headteacher
Tuesday	Assembly led by a member of the clergy
Wednesday	Class and/or Key Stage assemblies- led by staff and/or parish youth team
Thursday	Praise assembly
Friday	Sharing assembly led by children, followed by celebration of achievements.

Parents and members of the community are welcome to attend all of our assemblies. End of term assemblies and some special assemblies on holy days may be held in church.

Structure of Assemblies

Not all aspects of assemblies are collective worship, but are a time of sharing, community and celebration.

To retain the collective worship element as something special and separate, we use the Gather; Engage; Respond and Send approach. Worship may be enhanced by the lighting of a candle, the use of appropriate music and visual images on the large screen. Music can be used to create atmosphere when the children enter and leave assembly or when reflecting.

There is always a time for prayer and reflection as well as a hymn. A reflection box is available for children to add their prayer requests and thoughts. Most assemblies include a reading, story or talk.

Evaluation and Review

In addition to termly meetings between key worship leaders, evaluation takes place through regular meetings of the Collective Worship Committee. This comprises of pupils who are keen to give feedback and develop worship. The school council; pupil voice questionnaires and interviews also inform our practice. These have been very formative in the development of assemblies. Assembly logs are reviewed by the RE subject leader for coverage and to advise future planning. Governors are invited to any acts of worship they can attend and feedback to the headteacher.

This policy will be reviewed every two years. (Last reviewed Feb15)