Collective Worship Policy

'Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you'. Ephesians 4:32

Vision

At Brennand's we flourish with family, friendship and faith.
We aspire for everyone to be caring, confident and polite.

Statement on vision

This Policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's Mission Statement. 'At Brennand's we flourish with family, faith and friendship' It supports and reinforces the aims of Brennand's Church of England (Aided) Primary School for our children (and adults) to be confident, caring and polite.

The ethos of the school, encompassing all that we stand for, is reflected in and expressed through Collective Worship; it derives from the Christian tradition and seeks to activate our beliefs and values .

Collective Worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school. It is an oasis in the school day when children meet together with members of staff in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is regarded as 'quality' time and represents something special or separate from ordinary school routine.

Definitions

Worship: can be defined as paying homage to (revering) that which is of worth ("Worth-ship.") Religious Worship is the acknowledgement of 'worth' which is attributable to a supreme being. Worth can also be registered in other people and in values and attitudes.

School Assembly: is a gathering of the school community; it is often used to celebrate and focus on the life and values of the community itself such as on Friday when parents and grandparents are invited to celebrate the children's achievements.

Collective Worship: is a gathering of a 'collection' of people of diverse, religious, agnostic and non-religious backgrounds and does not pre-suppose any particular religious commitment.

NB. We note that Collective Worship and Assembly are not one and the same thing. They are, in essence, different from each other, but in practice they often overlap.

Rationale- legal

• Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school which requires worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and will, therefore, be wholly Christian in character.
• The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society.
• All maintained schools – including church schools – must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils.

Rationale- educational/religious

Collective Worship:-

• gives children the opportunity to enter into experiences which lie at the heart of religion; These experiences help them to learn about religious worship and provide a framework for later understanding;
• fosters a reverential attitude to God, the Divine, the transcendent;
• encourages pupils to consider fundamental questions about the purpose of being and about moral and ethical stances;
• provides an opportunity, for those who can use it, to participate in religious worship;
• allows us to learn and celebrate values we hold to be important;
• brings children together as a school family, enabling them to experience the security of belonging to a community with an identity of its own;
• is the source of much interesting and thought provoking knowledge;
• offers pleasurable expression through literature, art, music and drama;
• makes an important, though not exclusive, contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims and principles

"Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes."
(DfEE – Circular 1/94)

The following principles guide our approach to Collective Worship at Brennand's Endowed Church of England (Aided) Primary School.

• Collective Worship should have a sense of occasion.
• Collective Worship should provide experiences within which pupils' spiritual development may flourish.
• Collective Worship should be a means of expressing the ethos and values of the school.
• Collective Worship should be educational and should contribute to the Religious Education of all pupils.
• Collective Worship should be shaped to the needs of the school, (time, place, content, style etc.)
• We should provide a varied pattern of worship to broaden pupils' experience of its different forms.
• Collective Worship should recognise that the school includes children from different religious and non-religious backgrounds.
• During Collective Worship some will be worshipping and some will be experiencing something approaching worship; others will be finding out what it is like to worship by being with those who are.

Objectives

The objectives of Collective Worship are to:-
• affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as God, the Son;
• introduce pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement and prayer;
• create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere in assemblies, conducive to worship; including the manner of entry and exit;
• encourage, in children, a thoughtful and reflective attitude;
• help pupils experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness;
• enable pupils to use silence for reflection and contemplation;
• raise pupil's curiosity about the ultimate mysteries of life;
• enable pupils to learn about and consider in depth Christian teaching, Christian festivals and biblical material;
• help pupils appreciate that we are 'stewards' of God's world;
• enable pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to those of others;
• enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
• guide children towards the spiritual and religious options open to them;
• help children distinguish between right and wrong;
• affirm pupils' personal worth and responsibility;
• celebrate individual and collective achievements;

• develop a sense of community within the school;
• celebrate religious festivals and special occasions with specified worship.

Management of Collective Worship

The Governing Body is responsible for:

• Ensuring that the Foundation of the school is honoured and that the worship policy is firmly based upon the intentions set down in the Trust Deed.
• Ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate Governor.
• Engaging an appropriate inspector to carry out the Section 23 Inspection of a church school alongside the OFSTED Inspection.
The School Development Plan includes a section on Collective Worship which gives an indication of the intentions and arrangements for review concerning the following:

• Themes and approaches
• Staff training and support
• Development of resources
• Pupil participation and response
The Collective Worship Co-ordinator has responsibility for managing the worship on a day to day basis, ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with. The co-ordinator also keeps in touch with national developments in school worship and acts in an advisory capacity, supporting colleagues.

Monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship is an on-going process carried out on a weekly basis

Atmosphere -
is all-important in creating the right foundation for Collective Worship. Quiet, orderly behaviour and respectful attitudes on entering, leaving and throughout the collective worship are expected. Staff enhance the atmosphere by their presence and participation. A covered table with a cross, bible and candles help to set the scene.
Music -
is played at the beginning and end of the assembly sometimes accompanied by a visual presentation.
Stories and talks -
are carefully chosen to fulfill the objectives of Collective Worship. Stories of a religious or secular nature may be used whilst personal anecdote from pupils, teachers and visitors is effective in expressing that which is important in our own lives. Particular emphasis is laid upon helping children to understand themselves better, to develop empathy and to face up to moral issues.
Songs -
are chosen from a wide variety of traditional and modern hymns and choruses. One is used at each assembly or act of worship, relative to the theme. These are displayed using a data projector Hymns and songs create the opportunity for children to express thoughts and feelings that are difficult to put into words; and they provide a real source of pleasure.
Prayer and reflection -
are the most personal part of an act of worship. Collective Worship in school should provide opportunities for children to be taken to the threshold of prayer, and to cross it if they wish, in a way that respects the integrity of all present. Participation in prayer can never be imposed but we stress the need for stillness, reflection and respect for others. Silence, written prayers, impromptu prayers, The Lord's Prayer and children's prayers. Reflection and thinking time are given some direction by the leader in order to concentrate pupils' response.
Scripture -
The headteacher shares and discusses a story from the bible each week.
Presentation -
sets the tone within the act of worship. In keeping with the reverent atmosphere, use is also made of visual aids, artefacts, drama, demonstration, video and powerpoint presentations.
Content-
Planning – is the responsibility of the individuals or groups taking the collective worship. The 'Roots and Fruits' themes are used to give suggestions and some structure for the year but do not need to be adhered to slavishly.

Links with R.E. and the Curriculum are incorporated wherever possible. Common themes link R.E. and Collective Worship. The apt choice of story can link worship with current topic work e.g.
'Caring' = 'Florence Nightingale' = 'Victorians'. Worship can be followed up in the classroom by further discussion and emphasis throughout the day. There is often an overlap between Collective Worship and Personal and Social Education.
N.B. No worship programme can ever be entirely pre-planned. There will always be the spontaneous moment or occasion when it is important, spiritually, to focus on the immediate, so that pupils become aware of how the spiritual dimension transcends all our experience.

Resources

- Staff, pupils, visiting speakers.
- Selection of religious artefacts.
- Religious/informative websites.
- Selection of song books.
- Piano, Music, CDs with spiritual, classical, folk, ethnic.
- Data projector and other IT equipment.
- Powerpoint presentations of hymns and songs.

Records and assessment

Themes for Collective Worship are taken from the Imaginor 'Roots and Fruits' scheme and are communicated to parents and children through display and in the school newsletter. Notes on the stories, songs, prayers/thoughts and music are entered on monitoring forms which are completed by children,staff, parents and governors as appropriate.
Staff meetings are used for discussion and the update of information as and when necessary.

Equal opportunities

All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. The school prospectus informs parents of their right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship.
As a caring school with a family ethos we make sure all junior pupils are able to plan and deliver acts of worship should they so wish. The junior children have the opportunity to be 'faith leaders' over each half term.

Multiculturalism

A variety of multicultural material is available throughout the school. Stories are shared and festivals celebrated. Tolerance and understanding of other religions is encouraged. Visitors of non-Christian faiths are invited into school. The school has very strong links with a school in India and studies Hinduism as this is the faith of our partner school.

Special assemblies and visitors

Church services are held for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and End of the School Year. Parents, Governors and visitors are especially welcome to attend.
The local incumbent, Reverend Oldfield and other local clergy (James Bovenizer from Bible explorer and John Froud from the Zephaniah trust) regularly take collective worship. Occasionally outside speakers, such as representatives from charitable organisations, will lead assemblies.

Role of co-ordinator

- To write the school's policy for Collective Worship in consultation with foundation governors.
- To ensure that all staff are aware of and use the policy document.
- To review the policy on a regular basis.
- To plan an overall balanced programme of worship for the year.
- To draw up worship rotas.

- To involve colleagues, pupils and visitors in worship.
- To advise on planning, ideas and resources.
- To be responsible for ordering, maintaining and displaying resources.
- To administer the budget for Collective Worship.
- To ensure that Collective Worship maintains a high profile in the school.
- To monitor and evaluate, with others, Collective Worship in all its forms.
- To report to the governors.
- To maintain a Collective Worship display board in the hall.
- To arrange INSET for staff as necessary.
- To keep up to date with recent publications, attend Diocesan courses and disseminate information and feedback to staff.
- To liaise with the incumbent, governing body and Diocesan officers on matters relating to Collective Worship.

Review

The Governing Body will review this policy, formally, three years from the date of its adoption.
Informal Review may be necessary in the interim and should take place as and when required.

Date of Review: October 2018