



FOUNTAINS EARTH LOFTHOUSE C.E. ENDOWED PRIMARY SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

What is Collective Worship?

Our daily act of collective worship is a special and distinctive time of our school day, when the school community is assembled and we pray together, or sing a hymn of praise together, in worship to God.

This opportunity for worship takes place each day during an assembly time. Not everyone may choose to worship God at that time, but there is an expectation that everyone will respect the 'special nature' of the time.

Aims

We aim to reflect in our worship the Christian foundations of the school and its care for all who work here. The children are helped understand the meaning of Christian worship, taking part in worship at a level and in a way appropriate for them.

Our aims of collective worship are:

- To allow the children to explore a variety of forms of worship, so that those with religious commitment may have their experience of worship deepened, whilst others who are uncommitted may begin to feel something of what it means for others to worship
- To develop 'a worshipful attitude' characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, appreciation, gratitude, respect and reverence
- To provide the children with regular opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues and the many questions which relate to life
- To develop a sense of community within the school and being part of a wider community
- To celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to individual pupils within the school, to the school as a whole, or to the wider community
- To acknowledge and respect differences and celebrate diversity
- To provide opportunities for children to think in abstract terms

Why is it important to us?

As a school we acknowledge Jesus Christ as our Lord, our friend, and our Saviour. We seek to uphold our special Christian ethos of care, love and generosity in all aspects of school life. Our daily act of collective worship is an outward sign and witness to the presence of God in our school and in our lives.

Foundation

This is a Church of England Primary School and we acknowledge our foundation, both in the school name and the ethos within and without the school, promoting Christian values.

Who leads collective worship?

Each week the assembly and collective worship are led by Mrs Brown, Mrs Metcalfe, Mrs Morrell and Mrs Partridge. Every Wednesday, Reverend Darryl Hall visits to lead worship. From time to time visitors such as staff from other schools, representatives from the parish or neighbouring parishes come to our school and enhance the experience. 'Open the Book' a group formed from Church in the Dale, come in fortnightly to enact Bible stories involving children in their drama, singing and prayer.

Learning Opportunities

All acts of worship should be inclusive and therefore child centred, related to the children's experience and their relevant concerns. Acts of worship should foster a sense of community, shared values, identity and purpose. In order to achieve our aims for Collective Worship, we provide opportunities for:

- Individual response and reflection
- Listening and thinking about the world, themselves and others
- Introducing children to the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and beliefs
- Sharing in experiences and challenges of life eg sadness, excitement, joy, thankfulness, togetherness
- Silence, stillness, meditation, contemplation and prayer
- Celebration of the shared values of the school community
- Introduction to some Key Christian prayers, hymns and songs
- Reflection of Key Christian stories and Key Moments of the Christian year

Planning assemblies

Each term, the head teacher produces a list of themes and values which are based on the Christian values that school considers important in everyday life. Planning will be flexible enough and will allow for sudden events, disasters, celebrations or times of sadness in the community to be acknowledged. Special days and festivals from other faiths are also acknowledged.

Each assembly has a stimulus which may be a story, an activity, a real life account, a passage from the Bible, a story from the Christian tradition or another faith tradition, or from SEAL or PSHCE materials. From this stimulus, a conclusion is drawn and related to a Christian truth. A typical assembly might be as follows;

Quiet music

Story

Christian truth

Prayer + Lord's Prayer

Song

Quiet music

Music

Quiet music is played as the children enter and leave the hall and sometimes used to aid contemplation. The songs are chosen from the hymn books, or from the CDs.

Juniors help to prepare the hall for assemblies, operating the CD player, and the overhead projector

Resources

A wide variety of resources such as artefacts, posters and books are purchased regularly and are available in the Collective Worship table drawers

Special Assemblies

From time to time the pupils join in special assemblies at the local church.

Lambing Service

Ascension Day

Mothering Sunday

Harvest

Stir Up Sunday

Christmas Nativity Service

Bell Festival

Families are invited and encouraged to attend on these occasions, and many families do.

Children take part in the services as appropriate.

Each Friday parents are invited to join staff and pupils for a celebration of pupils work assembly and collective worship

Parent's Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the daily act of collective worship, and the school would ensure that these pupils were safe and occupied during this time. The request to withdraw a child must be made in writing to the Headteacher.

Foundation Governors

Reverend Darryl Hall

Mrs Helen Wright

Monitoring and Evaluation

Evaluation strategies currently used by staff for assessing the outcomes of Collective Worship are:-

- Observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest shown during sessions
- Classroom feedback from the children
- Annual observations of Collective Worship by the Foundation Governors

Adopted by the Governing Body...April 2014.....

To be reviewed...April 2017.....