



Jesus said, I come to give life - life in all its fullness

Policy for Collective Worship

Introduction

This policy has been developed to ensure that the Collective Worship Policy contributes to the school fulfilling its values statement, and is intrinsically linked with, and is informed by other school policies, including the:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Early Years Behaviours for Learning Policy
- Equality and Social Inclusion Policy
- IT Policy
- Policy for Learning and Teaching
- Special Educational Needs Policy

Radley Primary School is a community that celebrates religious, cultural and ethnic diversity and encourages dialogue and understanding. We believe that we can all learn from each other and that collective worship is an educational entitlement for all. At Radley CE Primary School, collective worship is central to the life of our school, it offers the children and adults in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian vision and ethos. It is an expression of our vision and shapes our approach to others and what we do in school.

Our collective worship provides children and adults the opportunity to:

- Celebrate –
 - Christian seasons and festivals;
 - Schools values associated with our vision and values;
 - Children's and adults' achievements
- Experience prayer, stillness, worship and reflection;
- Grow in understanding of and participation in prayer;
- Create a reflective approach to life including the exploration of deep questions
- Develop a community centred on our clear and distinctive Christian vision
- Experience a variety of styles of worship;
- Participate and respond, through involvement in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship;
- Feel safe and affirmed
- Worship God on their own terms.
- An opportunity for acknowledgement of the awe and wonder that our world provides us, and an occasion to encourage respect and care for God's creation.

Worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- Nurture spiritual growth;
- Enable participants to consider moral questions in a Christian context;
- Enhance social understanding and encourage responses to issues through courageous advocacy
- Give participants a chance to reflect on the place and importance of faith in the lives of people today;
- Encourage participants to explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage;
- Reflect the teachings of Jesus and a trinitarian theology.

The pattern of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings, in the school hall, in classrooms, outside and also in Church. As a Church School, the language of our celebration and worship is that of the Christian faith, but children of other faiths and philosophies will have their beliefs welcomed, shared and respected. We follow the seasons of the church year and within these significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost; other days such as Candlemas are celebrated occasionally. Other important days in the calendar such as a remembrance, celebration day and the leavers' service also feature in collective worship.

Leading Worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within the school and from St James the Great Church community through a fortnightly 'Open the Book' assembly alternating with visits from the Reverend Rob Glenny. Pupils are also given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to contribute to collective worship from time to time and are given guidance from our worship policy. Leaders from within these faiths help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the self esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

Planning Acts of collective worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in the worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme and the needs of the children. The themes of worship are chosen to both express and explore the vision and the way the vision experienced in school through the associated values. Throughout their time at our school, children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as drama and dance alongside more traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce children to participate. Our prayers are addressed to God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Children who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection, and our evaluations are fed into the planning of future worship.

At Radley CE Primary School, there are four whole school acts of worship each week and one class act of worship. Our end of week whole school act of worship is a celebration of all that has gone before in the week and is led by the children.

As a Church School, our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their background and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory. Collective worship is the responsibility of the Foundation Governors under the trust deed. Parents may withdraw children from acts of worship, but should discuss this with the Headteacher.

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