



Collective Worship

(Policy and Procedure)

Agreed by Governing Body:

“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”.

William Temple (1881-1894)

Brookland Church Of England Primary School Mission Statement

‘For A Brighter Future’

Through our Christian values, we promote the personal development of individuals so that they make positive CHOICES for themselves, others and the world around them.

Our key values are:

Courage

Honesty

Optimism (Hope)

Inspiration (Creativity)

Consideration (Respect and Reverence)

Endurance (Perseverance)

Secrets of Success (Attitudes to Learning)

Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our values and celebrates the contribution that each person makes to our community. Worship will reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognize and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

Aims

Collective worship at Brookland CEP School will support the school’s Mission Statement, by providing opportunities for students and staff:

- to explore a relationship with God in Jesus Christ
- to reflect on values that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognizing the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions and belief systems
- to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith
- to reflect on their own beliefs

- to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'little or no formal faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- to develop a respect for and an understanding of different beliefs
- to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of students coming together

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following may be described as shared Christian elements of collective worship:

- Using the Bible, either as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints Days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the Grace
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to rap
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection
- Using Psalms with simple responses – Taizé style

Whilst these are more distinctively Anglican:

- Using prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican sentences and responses e.g.
 - The Lord is here / *His Spirit is with us*
 - Peace be with you/ *and also with you*
 - Go in peace to love and serve the Lord / *In the name of Christ,*
 - *Amen*
- Using Collects as a focus for worship
- Celebrating Eucharist
- Encouraging links with the worship of the local Parish Church

Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement. Brookland CE Primary School must provide a Christian act of collective worship for all pupils every day. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class.

How the school plans collective worship.

- (a) Organisation and Implementation

The programme for collective worship each term follows a set pattern of activities linked to a termly theme. Throughout the week the whole school joins together on four days of the week, with individual classes sharing a separate act of collective worship on Thursdays. The whole school act of worship on Friday is extended to incorporate celebration of the life of the school and rewards children for living out the school's values.

(b) Planning and Coordination

The topics to be covered are for the whole year and are differentiated using a four year rolling programme organised through the Diocese of Canterbury. The school also uses additional resources from the Diocesan of Gloucester to link in with the school values. Where appropriate links will be made to support the Christian Ethos by linking the school's British Values and Learning Values to the topics covered. The topics cover Christian festivals and Saint's Days as well as linking to relevant local community events to give pupils the opportunity to develop their understanding of moral and ethical issues.

The Collective Worship Coordinator and a nominated Governor regularly monitors the collective worship practices used, by observation and through a system of daily recording which is continuously developed through staff input. Resources are also provided where appropriate to support the Act of Worship.

(c) Delivery and Content

Collective worship is delivered by all members of staff using the Diocese Scheme and staff endeavor to actively include pupils wherever possible. Collective worship may lead with prayers, musical instruments, poetry, readings from the bible and other sources, song, drama and role play and staff ensure that content is varied to support wide diversity of needs. Opportunities are provided during these times for pupils to be silent and to think and listen to a variety of activities and a candle is lit to encourage pupils to reflect.

The themes, which form the main structure of the school's collective worship, contain religious concepts and attitudes central to the life of Jesus Christ and the Christian Church and its principle festivals.

(d) Recording Acts of Worship

A robust method of recording and monitoring of acts of worship has been developed.

(e) Resourcing

Resources are available in the school hall and staffroom for all teachers and the Collective Worship Coordinator will audit these resources on a regular basis.

(f) Church, Parish and Community Links

There are strong links with the school's local parish church, St Augustine's. The rector is a regular and frequent visitor and the school actively seeks to celebrate major festivals through close involvement with the local church.

There is a regular school carol service held at the end of Autumn Term 2 and a harvest festival service is held at school in October during Autumn Term 1 to which parents and friends of the school are invited.

An Easter service is also held at the church, along with a leavers' service. These services are whole school events and every class and child is involved in some way. Family members and the local community are also invited.

As a friend of Canterbury Cathedral the school is involved biannually and year groups 5 and 6 participate in the Cathedral Day at the cathedral in Canterbury or other celebrations as required.

The children are actively encouraged to participate and they are able to enjoy reflective practices such as, discussion of thoughts and/or worries, writing their own prayers or blessings and participating in group prayer for both the local and wider global community.

(g) Monitoring and Evaluation

The school uses its wide range of methods of monitoring and evaluation for the collective worship process. These include, feedback from local clergy, advice from the Board of Education of the Diocese of Canterbury, observations from representatives of our collaborative hub schools, consultation with parents and feedback from pupils through the school council.

(h) Self-assessment and Inspection

School self-assessment is completed on the SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) toolkit by the headteacher and the governor monitoring team with responsibility for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the school. Worship is externally inspected under section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

(i) Parental Withdrawal

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship on grounds of conscience. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

If pupils are withdrawn from collective worship, the school will confirm with the parents/carers the arrangements that are available for the supervision of their child/children.

Date of validation..... Signed.....

Chair of Governors

Date of review..... Signed.....

Chair of Governors

Appendix

Inviting Visitors to lead collective worship

When briefing visitors for school worship, make sure you tell them:

- who exactly will attend, whether it will be the whole school or a section of it, and if so, which section
- what the school's aims, ethos and policies are
- how long the speaker is expected to talk for (10 – 12 minutes)
- the current assembly theme and context for the speaker - what has already been done and what will be done later in the term
- how pupils and staff are normally involved in collective worship
- what resources or hardware are available to them, should they so wish
- exactly how much their contribution will be - is it just the talk or will they be asked to choose the hymn and lead the prayers

and remember to:

- give them plenty of notice - don't assume that a visitor who wears an RE or religious "hat" can produce an assembly at a few moments notice!
- invite them to attend an act of collective worship beforehand so that they may see how the school conducts them, or, if this is not practical, lend them a copy of the collective worship policy document
- some visitors may also need to be told that collective worship is not an appropriate vehicle for hard sell evangelism, and that inclusive language ("we all believe....") is to be avoided

Visitors who are regularly involved in collective worship should appreciate sensitive feedback on the appropriateness of their contribution to the school assembly programme.

And finally.... NEVER leave a visiting speaker to take an act of collective worship alone, it is bad manners, bad educational practice, and bad churchmanship!