



RICHARD WAKEFIELD C OF E (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP CODE OF PRACTICE

General principles

The school aims to be a Christian Community in which children, parents, teachers and other adults, in partnership, create an environment which is rich in learning opportunities and in which there is an atmosphere of security, mutual respect, enjoyment and personal value.

Assembly is an opportunity to develop this sense of community and shared values. Collective Worship will normally take place as a distinct element within this as the 'living centre' of the work, worship and worth of the school. It offers the whole school community the opportunity to experience and participate in the living expression of Christian Worship.

This policy will take note of the schools approach to inclusion and will recognise both the content and the purpose of the policies on Dyslexia and Special Educational Needs in all practice. All children will have their individual learning needs recognised in the implementation of this policy.

Organisation, Content and Structure

The whole school, including members of staff and visitors, meet together daily in the main hall. Worship usually lasts for approximately 15 minutes, but the length of collective worship may vary. Various people assist the Headteacher in conducting collective worship. Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to collective worship, with charitable organisations offering their expertise regularly. Clergy of the parish take a lead role on Wednesday on a rotational basis, but are welcomed more regularly.

At the beginning and end of each term, and at major festival times, collective worship is held in the local church. Where children are withdrawn from collective worship, a provision is made in school.

The following ongoing daily pattern is generally followed:

Mondays: Key Stage worship led by the Key Stage Leader, introducing the theme for the week or conveying key worship messages. This session takes place at 1.10pm.

Tuesdays: Staff members lead worship at 1.10pm.

Wednesday: Clergy from the benefice lead collective worship on a rotational basis. When visiting clergy are unavailable, this worship is led by the Headteacher. Worship takes place at 9.05am and gives opportunity for the school band to perform.

Thursday: This worship is led by staff members and has a song and praise focus. It includes hymn practise and begins at 1.10pm.

Friday: Celebration assembly and worship usually led by the Headteacher. This takes place at 2.45pm.

Content

It is the responsibility of the collective worship leader to facilitate and support staff in planning for, and including of, a variety of ingredients within the stated theme for the week. We have developed a range of themes and topics through which collective worship takes place. Weekly themes are developed and presented in a variety of ways. The themes are chosen and agreed by the Headteacher and R.E and collective worship leader. The list is displayed in the staffroom with additional details about the theme, including bible readings made available. The themes are also found on the VLE.

The content of worship can include the use of stories, poems, drama, songs, visual aids, prayers, moments of reflection, OHP, focal points, interactive activities for the children, slides or video presentations, and consideration of work undertaken in the school curriculum. A collection of resources is available in school, kept in the resource room, as an aid to planning. A time of quiet reflection must be included.

It should be noted that an 'assembly' is not an 'act of worship' but includes a gathering of the school for other purposes, e.g. notices, behaviour chats, etc.

Each act of collective worship will include more than one of the following elements:

- Celebration of the major festivals of Christianity and reference to the festivals of other faiths
- Presentation of Bible stories. Each week a member of staff selects a Bible reading.
- Topical matters from the news or the locality.
- Using literature with implicit or explicit religious teaching
- Appreciation of the natural world and human activity
- Appreciation of the talents, achievement and work of ourselves and others
- Visitors who represent themselves who have a brief acceptable to the school
- Prayer in different forms- formal, children's own, silence and meditation. These might include praise; seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others and quiet reflection
- Use of music, including that which is played upon entry and exit from the worship.
- Use of appropriate artefacts and focal points
- Participation by the children
- Using collects, responses, hymns and psalms as a focus for short acts of worship.

Resources

The school budget allows for some resources to be purchased in order to support collective worship. These resources are kept in the main resource room and there is an audit of resources available on the VLE.

Record Keeping

The themes are discussed with staff and distributed at the beginning of each term. They are also displayed on the staffroom notice board. New/supply staff are briefed as necessary by the collective worship coordinator. Any plans relating to worship are kept up to date. Records of the acts of worship are kept over time to avoid repetition of stories and other elements of worship, whilst ensuring a breadth of approach is used. The worship coordinator is available to support with planning should a member of staff request this.

Visitors

Each visitor is personally communicated with the school, either through the school office or the member of staff making contact. They are briefed on school policy and the aims for collective worship. Themes are discussed and suggestions made as to the content of each act of worship. Should any problems occur with an act of worship then the head undertakes to deal with these in liaison with the coordinator. A personal letter of thanks is sent at the end of each term.

Policy Reviewed 28th January 2016

Signature: _____

Name:

Date: _____

Date of Review: 28th January 2018