

Please note that this is a suggested model designed particularly, but not exclusively, for those who use the Diocesan framework as it reflects what has been included in this framework. The parts marked in red must be adapted to reflect the particular context of the school.

Collective Worship Policy for a Primary School

(Name of school) Collective Worship Policy

“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)

(Put in here the school’s Mission Statement)
(Put in here the school’s Christian values)

Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctive Christian character of our school, reaffirms our Christian values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England as well as other Christian traditions, and recognizes and follows the Church’s 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 is in line with the school’s Trust Deed and supports the school’s Mission Statement, by providing opportunities for students and staff:

- to explore a relationship with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- to reflect on our explicit Christian values
- to develop personal spirituality especially through prayer, and also through a range of other experiences
- to be engaged in an exploration of the relevance and application of the Christian faith
- 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 Christian values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it.

The Anglican Christian Tradition

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

- Using the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Saints Days
- Learning and saying Christian prayers from a number of sources, for example, the Lord's Prayer and the Grace
- Using simple Anglican (or Methodist) liturgy at levels appropriate to students'/pupils' age
- Singing a wide variety of Christian hymns and songs
- Experiencing Christian symbolism in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles
- Using prayer, silence and reflection
- Celebrating the Eucharist/Holy Communion

Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement. In line with the statutory requirement, a Christian act of collective worship is provided for all pupils every day. All teachers attend all acts of collective worship. Time allocated to collective worship is not part of curriculum time. (This includes academies.)

Details of how the school plans collective worship: needs to be completed by the school

- a) timing, groupings, venue, regular worship leaders,
- b) those who are involved in planning collective worship – (e.g. Chaplain and worship group/the Incumbent, governors, visitors, staff and students)
- c) evidence of an effective pattern of themes planned in advance, and available to all staff and worship leaders Those schools using the Diocesan Framework for worship should refer to it here
- d) evidence of use of varying types of worship experiences (e.g. prayer, music, silence, Bible reading, story, dance, puppets, DVD and similar clips etc)
- e) allocation of budget, resources and Continuous Professional Development
- f) describe student/pupil leadership in collective worship
- g) give details of any cross-curricular links

Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation takes place as follows: needs to be completed by school

- a) the school's strategies for monitoring and recording acts of worship
- b) the school's method of evaluating the collective worship process including views of students/pupils, staff, governors and parents. (For detailed guidance see Diocesan web site)

Self-evaluation and Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

School Self-evaluation is completed on the SIAMS Self-evaluation forms provided by the Diocese. Worship is inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act (SIAMS).

Parental Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos so our headteacher would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents. **If students are withdrawn from collective worship, include a brief statement explaining how the school will supervise them.**

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

Chair of Governors

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

Chair of Governors

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!