



CURRICULUM POLICIES

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP:

Reviewed by VV&C Committee	12/01/17
Agreed by Governing Body	8th June 2017
Date of review	Bi-annually

Policy statement

As an academy with religious designation, we stipulate that collective worship must be in accordance with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England. In a church academy, worship is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian foundation, values and ethos of the academy and provides an opportunity to engage with the Christian story.

This policy is intended to provide guidance to Local Governing Bodies, all staff and parents regarding the legal framework for collective worship and its effective delivery.

Aims of Collective Worship

Acts of collective worship can:

- foster a sense of fellowship, empathy and care for one another by bringing pupils together to celebrate shared values of the school and community.
- offer opportunity to reflect inwardly and individually, and outwardly as a community, on ways to live out the shared values.
- provide an experience of being part of a caring community.
- help pupils develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts each pupil and adult brings to the community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual.
- provide a time for sharing successes and failures in personal, school and community life.
- foster an appreciation and awareness of our responsibility for the wider world and for the created world.
- foster a sense of wonder and awe at the beauty, mystery and power of the universe and learn about belief in God.
- help pupils explore belief in Jesus who reveals God's love, and belief in the Holy Spirit.
- help pupils explore links between Bible stories and the Christian values of the academy.
- allow reflection on the fundamental questions of life, and focus attention away from the concerns of the moment to those things which are of eternal concern to human beings.
- provide an opportunity for celebration, thanksgiving and sharing of emotions such as love, joy, hope, friendship, acceptance, anguish, fear, reverence, forgiveness, compassion etc.
- enable pupils to approach the 'threshold' of worship by instilling in them a worshipful attitude (characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, deep appreciation, gratitude, respect, reverence and trepidation).

- provide opportunities for experiencing different aspects of Christian worship, including thanksgiving, confession and praise
- Create time and space for prayer and reflection as part of each academy day with pupils encouraged to pray in a variety of ways, both verbal and non-verbal, and creating own prayers and learning well known Christian prayers, such as Lord's prayer
- create opportunities for pupils to gain confidence in participating in worship and leading prayers, readings, and helping to plan acts of worship
- enable pupils to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism, and the cycle of the church year, which offers a pattern of meanings and framework in which children can integrate experience
- provide opportunities to worship in a church setting, in order to support the links between the school and the worshipping community
- encourage respect for and understanding of others' religious practices and beliefs.

Objectives

1. Collective worship is broadly Christian in character
2. Worship and learning both engages with the distinctiveness of Church of England worship and beliefs and celebrates other Christian variety
3. The school collective worship generally involves all pupils together
4. The school varies the presentation of collective worship
5. Parents have the option to allow their children to opt out

Collective Worship should be broadly Christian in character

The act of collective worship organised by the school is to be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. We should note that this means that most school worship should reflect Christian **beliefs**, not necessarily Christian worship practices. There is a particular emphasis on the Church of England as a C of E Primary School. However some school worship time will be devoted to learning about and appreciating other religions and beliefs.

Christian beliefs encompass:

- an underlying purpose to creation and human responsibility for it: (*for example in interest in ecology, pollution and stewardship of the earth's resources arises from this belief*)
- human beings' responsibility before God and yet the failure to meet those demands fully; (*for example opposition to prejudice, cruelty, violence, arise from this belief*)
- the uniqueness and value of each human being and the possibility of new beginnings: (*for example concern for self-knowledge, co-operation, respect arising from this belief*)
- God's purpose for a just and harmonious world; (*for example young people's hopes, concerns and impatience with unfairness could be said to reflect this belief*).

Organisation and Grouping

The school gathers for collective worship from Monday to Friday.

Collective worship takes place from 9.25 to 9.45.

Content and Presentation

The school seeks to involve as many staff and pupils as possible, although the Headteacher or the Deputy Head co-ordinate the various contributions.

The unifying element for each act of collective worship is a central theme focusing the attention of all taking part on a single idea. There is an assembly rota for each term and a two yearly cycle of themes.

Assembly themes are broadly in line with the Values for Life theme for that term as well as following the SEAL themes and ensuring the school's core values of perseverance, forgiveness and responsibility are covered frequently.

School or local events, a topic explored by one class, the lives and experiences of people past and present, current religious festivals, national and international days, are examples of other themes we cover in collective worship.

Classes will visit places of Christian worship. In KS2 they will also visit places of worship for other faiths.

Older pupils are supported to run their own collective worship at intervals throughout each term: these will usually be at key times in the christian calendar, for example the Christmas Service or Remembrance Day or to celebrate festivals from other cultures and religions. Pupils will also sometimes be asked to generate their own prayers for assemblies as well as for services in Holy Trinity Church.

Class worship will take place every 2 weeks and can follow a similar format to whole school worship but could also be quite open ended, following the P4C format to explore questions regarding worship in depth.

The methods used to present particular themes include:

- the spoken word: story, poetry, personal experiences and anecdotes, jokes, interviews, discussion, reading from the Bible and from other religious and secular literature, choral speaking, thoughts for the day, quotations, prayers, guided fantasy, visualisation etc.
- the sung word: hymns, pop songs, folk songs, chants, singing games etc
- visual stimuli: pictures, posters, artefacts, natural objects, religious objects, personal objects, works of art, slides (or a single slide), video records, OHP acetate etc.
- Philosophy for Children
- performance: dance, music, mime, drama, role play, simulation, talent shows etc.

- music: classical, pop, folk, used in conjunction with slides, performed live, background, mood setting etc.
- broadcasts: - radio and television
- preparing and sharing food
- silence: stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation and, if appropriate, prayer attention to atmosphere and setting, using liturgical colours of the seasons of the Church Year, Christian signs and symbols, candles, music, ritual and liturgical responses

Linking with the community and the local churches

Close links with the Community are an integral part of the worship opportunities at Minchinhampton school. These are reflected through:

- events such as Experience Easter and Experience Christmas, when children visit the church and learn about the meaning of the Christmas and Easter stories and how these are celebrated in the Christian community;
- representatives from local churches leading acts of collective worship as well as the Open the Book team from the Baptist Church.
- teaching services, leavers' services at the local C of E Parish Church
- opportunity to write prayers for world concerns and issues through the C of E prayer mornings
- local Christian leaders and ministers taking some assemblies and leading acts of worship, on the understanding they are not there to proselytise

Opting Out

We hope that with our inclusive policy, collective worship will be broadly accepted by a wide variety of people. Many parents see the provision of acts of worship by a school as part of its expression of care for the well being of its pupils. However, there may be occasions when a parent insists on their right to withdraw their children from collective worship.

In this case the school will offer two alternatives:

- pupils can simply not attend collective worship and spend their time off the school premises with their parents or be under the supervision of a member of staff elsewhere in the school;
- parents and Headteacher together can agree to make informal parallel provision for those of a different faith, provided that this does not become the school's main act of worship and no additional costs fall on the school or the Local Authority.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is subject to ongoing review but at least yearly. A church school audit is also carried out on a yearly basis and a Statutory Inspection of Anglican schools is carried out after each Ofsted.