

Collective Worship Policy



At Dickleburgh C of E Primary Academy, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through collective worship, and the general ethos of the school, we seek to promote our ethos statement:

“Living and Learning together, celebrating life at its fullest”

Collective worship is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Context of Collective Worship

The Headteacher and other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, and fortnightly local clergy or other representatives of the church and wider community are invited to lead Open the Book worship. Worship is conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school, and we introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and explore a variety of ways of praying. We are also committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. Acts of worship regularly portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the R.E. studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

We aim to include the children in the planning and delivery of our collective worship, wherever possible. Children's views with regards to worship are sought and we always seek to respond to their important feedback. This year the pupils decided on the values that they felt the school should promote.

The themes for collective worship reflect our values focus for the half term, the Church calendar, our school ethos, British values and current events.

In addition to the above, we regularly hold worship in church, where the whole school community are invited to join us. These services involve the children and are linked to significant events in the Church calendar.

We regard worship time as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns.

Celebration Worship

Our assemblies will also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools; they play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school. Within achievement assembly, we also reward 100% attendance. Dickleburgh C of E Primary Academy is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies, celebrating every child as a unique individual.

We invite parents to assembly on a weekly basis and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

The worship coordinator holds a responsibility for mentoring and development; she coordinates the contributions of other staff members and supports pupils with their own planned collective worship.

Equal Opportunities and Special Needs Issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers are used throughout the school day, including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children for special assemblies and others appropriate to the time of year/events which are prevalent. Grace is said at lunchtime. These prayers are taken from a variety of sources, including those which have been written by the children. Children's prayers are also taken to Church, when the school holds a service there.

Every class room has the prayers on display alongside our Christian values.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this but the DFES, in circular 1/94, recommends that the school seeks discussion with parents over the issues concerning withdrawal. This approach complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. Staff also have the right to withdraw.

The Headteacher maintains a confidential record of all who withdraw from collective worship so that alternative provision can be made. No pupils or staff currently withdraw.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

A file is kept, recording details of each act of worship. It is the role of the Ethos and Community Committee to be responsible for the development of collective worship, to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The committee reports to the governing body on the effectiveness of collective worship. Points raised by the evaluation are included in the SIDP and funded appropriately.

Collective Worship is inspected on a regular basis using the SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) framework. This school was last inspected in February 2014. Inspection findings will be reflected in the school's annual improvement plan.

The coordinator and the RE leader jointly monitor the school's collective worship.

Signed:

Date:

Review: Autumn 2020

Worship Coordinator: M. Croskell

