

Verwood CE First School

'Learning Values for Life'

Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed:
January 2019

Introduction

At Verwood CE First school we believe that collective worship plays a very important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children. It should be of the highest quality.

School Aims

At Verwood CE First school we aim to develop:

- Open, self-aware, self-disciplined leaders and learners
- A culture of learning from mistakes, being open to vulnerability, forgiving ourselves and others and committing to improve
- A climate of sharing spiritual values and trust

We have readdressed our school aims to reflect our spiritual values, learning ethos and culture in our school.

The spiritual values that we hold dear are the fruits of the Spirit, taken from the book of Galatians in the Bible. These are: faithfulness, goodness, self-control, peace, love, joy, kindness, gentleness and patience.

The learning values we strongly believe in are the 6 Rs of learning: Resilience, Reflectiveness, Reciprocity, Resourcefulness, Respect and Responsibility.

The staff will model these values to enable the children to develop these themselves, with the intention of creating learners for life.

Statutory Duty of School

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation. The School meets this requirement and is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states that all maintained schools in England must provide a daily act of collective worship. This must reflect the traditions of this country which are, in the main, broadly Christian.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship and sixth-formers can decide for themselves whether or not to attend, without

giving a reason for doing so. Schools must comply with this wish and must ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Collective worship guidance is contained in Circular 1/94 which can be viewed at <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/schoolethos/a0064979/collective-worship>. Circular 1/94 has been replaced, so far as it relates to religious education, by guidance published on 29 January 2010. However, the guidance on collective worship contained within Circular 1/94 remains current. The updated non-statutory guidance on RE is available online.

Organisation of Worship

The acts of worship generally follow themes that are aligned to the schools values but include a recognition of the church's year and make space for other national events.

Monday – Whole school worship. Class teachers lead these on a rota basis.

Tuesday - Key stage worship. We have two worships, one for FS/KS1 worship and a second for KS2. The themes are usually the same, but content is differentiated appropriately. Class teachers lead these on a rota basis.

Wednesday – Base Worship. Each week pupils meet in base year groups for this act of worship. Pupils reflect on worships from earlier in the week through statements, thoughts or ideas, provided or approved by teachers which. Pupils may also contribute ideas for reflection.

Thursday – Class reflection worships. These worships are based the children thinking about key statements to reflect on and using the spiritual area with the base.

Friday – Praise Worship led by Headteacher. Learning and behaviour is celebrated through Headteachers award/pot of gold/manners monitors/positive play leaders.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship. The assembly/worship should last approximately 15-20 minutes.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer and prayers shared by the children. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, the children sing a prayer to God giving thanks. Each class also shares a prayer with their class at the end of the school day.

Implementation

Collective worship, whether in assembly or tutor time, will:

- Be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- Include a variety of elements at different times
- Involve the pupils.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Collective worship is monitored through the use of monitoring books. During each Collective worship, adults or children record reflections in the monitoring books, then the worships from the beginning of the week are reflected upon in a weekly reflective base worship. This process of monitoring and evaluating worships allows the teachers to discover what the children have remembered, understood and learned from the worships. The discussion provides an opportunity to help develop a deeper understanding and for the teacher to support children in their understanding if needed. This feedback from the children then allows the teacher to have a good understanding of what the children have understood to help inform future planning.

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

The right of parents to withdraw their child.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from Religious Education(RE) and collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending any RE or collective worship at the school the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn.

A school remains responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn from RE or collective worship, unless the child is lawfully receiving RE, or taking part in collective worship elsewhere.

Parents do not need to explain their reasons for seeking withdrawal. The DfES recommends that, to avoid misunderstanding, a head teacher may wish to clarify with any parent wanting to withdraw:

- The religious issues about which the parent would object their child being taught
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- The circumstances in which it would be reasonable to accommodate parents wishes
- If a parent will require any advanced notice of such issue in the future and if so, how much