



Sutton in Craven C of E (VC) Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Date Adopted: May 2015

Next Review: May 2018

Reviewed every 3 years by The Improvement Committee

Rationale

The policy and practice of collective worship at Sutton Church School is informed by the school ethos statement: 'The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils'

Staff and Governors at Sutton Church School believe worship is an important part of the school's daily life and that it is important for children to meet together on a daily basis to reinforce community values and to worship together. The character of worship in the school is Christian with reference to other faiths as appropriate.

Through collective worship we aim:

- To encourage and develop a sense of community in the school reinforcing the aims and ethos and celebrating the ideals and values of the school
- To celebrate the gifts that each child brings to the school community and to recognise the uniqueness of each child
- To foster a concern for others within the school and the wider world
- To foster an awareness of the created world and our responsibility for it
- To introduce children to religious worship and to enable those children who wish to worship God to do so
- To introduce children to some well-known Christian prayers and bible stories.
- To introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year
- To provide an opportunity to feel joy, to engage in reflection and to pray

Legal Framework

- There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils which takes account of their age and aptitude. (Education Reform Act 1988) Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.
- In our school, children would usually remain under the supervision of the class teacher to consider texts with a moral message.
- Since this is a church school we consider worship to be central to the life of the school. The daily act of worship will always have a Christian focus.

Organisation and Management

- Whole school collective worship takes place at the start of each school day with the exception of Thursdays, when collective worship is class based, and Fridays, when collective worship takes the form of an 'Awards Assembly' in the afternoon.
- All acts of worship should include the lighting of a candle, music and prayer in order to reflect on our Christian Values. Whole school collective worship should also include an appropriate hymn or song.
- Class teachers bring their children into the hall and may attend assembly or return to their classrooms.
- All class teachers should attend 'Awards Assembly' on a Friday afternoon.

Time allocation

- Whole school assemblies should last between 20 and 30 minutes.

Regular events

- Monday – Whole school collective worship led by Mr Phillips
- Tuesday - Whole school collective worship led by Miss Margetson, alternating between visits from the local vicar and singing practice.
- Wednesday - Whole school collective worship lead by Class teachers, based on our Christian Values, using 'Values for Life' scheme of work.
- Thursday – Class based collective worship led by Class teachers.
- Friday – Whole school 'Awards Assembly' led by Mr Phillips and attended by all Class teachers.

Planning

- Collective worship is co-ordinated by Mr Phillips and Mrs Campbell and a variety of themes and activities are used to provide a quality experience for the children. Worship is planned on a termly basis to assist coverage and variety; with a different Christian value focus each half-term. Each year the major events in the church calendar are celebrated.
- Class based collective worship has a theme which fits in with the work the class has completed over the week or issues specific to the class.
- Visitors are welcomed and deliver collective worship including the local vicar, CLICKS and people of other faiths.
- Children are encouraged to plan and deliver acts of collective worship or to contribute through readings.

Resources

- There are a number of resource books to support assemblies. These are stored in the library. Large puppets are stored in the upstairs classroom. In addition there are useful websites and a selection of artefacts which can be used.
- The 'Values for life' scheme is on the window ledge in the hall.
- There is a budget of £50.00 a year to support the purchase of new resources.

Monitoring and evaluation.

- Feedback about collective worship is sought from children and visiting Governors.