

Newton Solney Church of England (Aided) Infant School

Policy for Collective Worship

Introduction

RE and Collective Worship complement each other but are separate activities within the school. Collective Worship is seen as an important and vital part of our school day. It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) 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.

Aims:

- To foster a sense of fellowship and community
- To offer pupils opportunities which may lead them to the threshold of worship through stories, poems, prayer, quiet reflection, drama and music
- To encourage a sense of occasion
- To foster an understanding and love of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- To foster strong Christian values and reflect on the school "Do be Values"
- To celebrate God in all people

Christian Values

Through work with the children the School Values have been identified as:-

Friendship, Kindness, Respect and Responsibility.

Through these values other values are discussed e.g. Truthfulness, Forgiveness, Compassion and Honesty.

These values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

John 13:34-35

"....love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples".

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

Legal requirements

The Christian foundation of our school is recognised in collective worship in ways that are appropriate to the ages and background of the pupils. The Christian year gives an annual shape to the worship.

The right of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship is recognised.

School Population

Our school is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School and many parents, on registration forms, state a sympathy with the Christian nature of the school. Some of our children have a regular involvement as members of a Christian Church. Some families have other faiths but are fully supportive of their child learning about the Christian faith and the values that all faiths support.

Delivery and Organisation

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that each pupil experiences an act of collective worship each day. The daily act of worship is led by the headteacher or another member of staff and all children and, whenever possible, all members of staff are present.

Community Collective Worship is held once each month during term time. Parents, carers and members of the local community are invited to join us.

Regular visitors including clergy and Governors deliver worship and this is taken into account in our planning. Once a month our worship takes place in the local Church, St. Mary's in Newton Solney.

A programme of themes for worship ensures coherence and avoids repetition. Themes include work on values, stories from the Bible and church events throughout the year. A three year plan is in place.

A Planning and Record book is kept with space for staff to write an evaluation.

Pupils are encouraged to behave in a quiet, thoughtful way during the act of worship thus contributing to a reflective and worshipful atmosphere.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer and prayers written by the children. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. The school is actively developing the children's confidence in reading out prayers to the whole school.

On a Monday the Worship Box is opened with a set response and answer sequence and the Worship table is set up for the week. Children take pride in setting up the table. Three candles are lit each day to represent the presence of the Trinity and to acknowledge the beginning of the Worship. On a Friday, after Awards Worship, the Worship table objects are packed away, again to a set response and answer sequence.

A prayer/praise song is sung at the end of the school day.

Each classroom has a Reflection Area, where there is a Bible, Cross, candle (battery) and paper for the children to write prayers or just to sit and have a quiet time.

Hymns and Songs

Music and actions are an important part of worship/praise. Hymns and songs are chosen according to the theme of the occasion. The children will learn a blend of traditional and modern hymns.

Church Links

Children attend the Parish Church several times a year for services. Generally the services are led by our Year 2 children.

Harvest Service - which will incorporate a Communion Style sharing of bread

Christmas Service

Easter Service

Celebration Service (July)

Pupils and families are also invited to special Sunday services throughout the year e.g.

Christingle and Mothering Sunday.

The children make educational visits to the Church as part of their RE lessons and as part of the wider curriculum.

Equal Opportunities

All children have the opportunity to participate in the daily act of worship.

Our daily worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values and we also show respect for other's faiths and cultures, showing tolerance and understanding for each other.

Resources

Resources are updated whenever possible and INSET provision made. Resources for use in worship include the Bible, posters, books of stories and prayers which are kept in the teachers' resource section. Music is used to create a quiet, reflective atmosphere.

Display boards in the hall focus on themes for RE, PSHE and Collective Worship.

Evaluation

An opportunity to evaluate is provided in the record book for each Worship. Children are also given the chance to discuss Worship in the annual questionnaire.

Policy Review

This policy was reviewed by staff in January 2020, reviewed by the Teaching and Learning Committee in January 2020, and approved at Governors' meeting in January 2020.

Heidi Elks