



Fishbourne Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Lead member of staff	Head teacher
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At Fishbourne Church of England Primary School we start with the WHY – our core belief drives all decision making. We think deeply about the HOW, using our core belief to guide decisions on a day to day basis. Finally we decide WHAT action brings our belief to life.

Our core belief is that:

***'There is only one you in this great big world...
...make it a better place'***

This core belief is at the heart of why and how we create our policy and the policy in action.

God you made me; you created me. Psalm 119

Fishbourne C of E Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

As a church school our collective worship is a special time when we meet together to share what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is a time to reflect on our spiritual journey and celebrate God's love and creation. It is about affirming the equality of each individual in God's sight, regardless of gender, ethnic background, physical or mental ability. It builds up our common life and develops and reinforces our school ethos and philosophy.

Statutory Duty

All maintained schools provide daily *collective worship* for registered pupils (apart from those withdrawn by parents). Collective worship will comply with the legal requirements set down in the Trust Deed of the school which is in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England. It can take place at any time.

Right of Withdrawal

All children attend collective worship. 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. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from acts of collective worship (section 385/356 Education Acts 1966).

Aims

- To provide an opportunity for pupils to meet together as a whole school
- To provide an opportunity to reflect and to celebrate
- To introduce children to religious worship in a meaningful and honest way
- To enable those pupils who want to worship God to do so
- 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

Organisation

In order for collective worship to be effectively delivered, careful preparation, organisation and use of time is necessary. The Collective Worship Team is made up of: a group of children, the collective worship coordinator, the headteacher, Rector and a foundation governor. It is responsible for identifying the key themes for assemblies during the year.

A new theme is introduced by the Headteacher at the beginning of the week and it is then explored through a variety of media such as music, story, drama or poetry. All teachers play a part in leading worship during the year and the parish Rector leads an act of worship each week. All members of the school staff are welcome to join in school worship. Parents are invited to attend some assemblies, for example the weekly worship led by our parish priest and on other significant Christian festivals/seasons e.g. Harvest, Easter and Christmas.

Themes for Collective Worship

The weekly themes consider the age, interests and experience of the children and include:

- Our school vision statement: 'there is only one you in this great big world... make it a better place'
- School values of developing: determined, courageous, positive, reflective and collaborative learners
- The broad traditions of Christian belief
- Knowledge of the Christian year
- An appreciation and wonder of the world in which we live
- The example of great lives given in the service of others
- Love and consideration for others
- Links to our PSHCE curriculum

Acts of Collective Worship

The structure of an act of worship could include the following elements:

- Orderly entrance and exit of children
- A focal point e.g. a candle, a picture, praying hands, a display linked to the theme
- Singing
- Prayers
- Reading/story/poem/drama
- Music
- Time for reflection

Any notices should be given out at the beginning of assembly so as not to detract from the key messages introduced in the theme.

There should be the following throughout:

- A theme
- A purpose
- Spiritual Dimension
- An atmosphere

Weekly Programme

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Golden Learner and Treasure Chest (introduction to theme for the week)	Jess' worship	Visitors Story Tellers Bishop Luffa Worship Team Andy Morgan	Staff worship	Sung worship

Parish Priest's Collective Worship

Every Thursday the parish priest leads an act of collective worship for the whole school community. Parents are warmly welcome to attend.

Visitors:

The school are extremely fortunate to have visitors from a range of different settings, including:

Andy Morgan from Chichester Baptist Church

Bishop Luffa worship teams

Frank Yorkston from Aldwick Baptist Church

Story-tellers: are a team of volunteers from our local church and beyond who come in to share stories from the Storyteller Bible once a half term. Groups of children help to tell the story with the support of the volunteers, often getting dressed up and playing a key part in retelling the story.

Communion

Each year a whole school communion is held enabling all pupils, staff and parents to receive either communion or a blessing from the Rector.

Monitoring and Evaluation

It is the role of the Headteacher to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship within school. Governors are given the opportunity to regularly attend acts of Collective Worship and regular monitoring takes place.

Resources

- CDs
- Prayer books
- Candle
- Praying hands
- Prayer box
- Collective Worship guides including "Values" folder
- Bibles
- Story Books

This policy was reviewed in Spring 2023