

Slindon Church of England Primary School

Policy for Collective Worship

1. Introduction

1.1 At Slindon Church of England Primary School we believe it is important to meet together daily, as a community, to reinforce community values and to worship together. The character of worship in the school is Christian, with references to other faiths when appropriate. Collective Worship is coordinated by the Headteacher and a variety of themes and activities are used to ensure a high quality experience for all children, regardless of family background.

2. Aims and purpose

2.1 The aims and purpose of Collective Worship are:

- 2.1.1 to provide an opportunity for pupils to meet together as a whole school;
- 2.1.2 to introduce children to religious worship in a meaningful and honest way;
- 2.1.3 to teach children how to worship;
- 2.1.4 to enable children to reflect on Christian values and explore their own beliefs;
- 2.1.5 to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- 2.1.6 to encourage and develop a community spirit and a common ethos with shared values;
- 2.1.7 to reinforce positive attitudes;
- 2.1.8 to encourage participation and response.

3. Collective Worship

3.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

3.2 In line with the foundation of the school Acts of Collective Worship are Anglican based. Assemblies are usually based on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

3.3 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3.4 Collective Worship will vary in the content but will normally include a hymn/song and a prayer.

4. Organisation of Collective Worship

4.1 We hold a daily act of Collective Worship in our school. This forms part of each daily assembly, which is either a whole-school or class based assembly.

4.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it 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. We create an

appropriate atmosphere by using music and candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. Acts of Collective Worship take place in different parts of the school, including in the school grounds.

4.3 We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we reflect upon the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes, each half term, in advance.

4.4 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. Assemblies play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Slindon Church of England Primary School is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies and particularly on a Tuesday, through our 'Celebration' assemblies.

5. Weekly Programme

5.1 Twice weekly - Whole School Assembly led by the Headteacher/Staff/Visitors

5.2 Weekly - Whole School Assembly led by the Rector of Slindon or other clergy

5.3 Weekly - Whole School 'Celebration' Assembly led by Headteacher/Staff

5.4 Weekly - Class Based Assembly led by the Class Teacher

6. Time Allocation

6.1 Assemblies are planned for 15 minutes each day, of which about half the time is dedicated to Collective Worship and half to other matters of school interest.

7. Resources

7.1 A range of books and resources are available to support Collective Worship in the school.

8. Role of Governors and Staff

8.1 Collective Worship is coordinated by the Headteacher, in consultation with the Rector of Slindon. The Rector of Slindon, who is also a school Foundation Governor, conducts an assembly in school each week.

8. Role of Staff

8.1 Due to restrictions of space, as the school has no hall, it is not possible for all members of staff to take part in the act of Collective Worship each day. All teaching staff take part in a minimum of one Assembly each week. In addition they take it in turns to attend the Assembly led by the Rector of Slindon. Other members of staff do not usually attend but are invited to do so, if they wish. All teaching staff attend school services held at the Church in Slindon. In addition class teachers lead class based acts of Collective Worship and also lead whole school Assemblies on particular occasions.

9. Role of Parents

9.1 Due to restrictions of space, as the school has no hall, it is not possible to invite parents to attend assemblies which take place in school. However family and friends are encouraged to attend school services which take place at the local church of St Mary.

10. Right of withdrawal

10.1 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. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

10.2 The Head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship.

11. Role of the Community

11.1 Close links have been developed between the school and the local church. The Rector of Slindon supports the school, and on special occasions the school worships in the local church. These occasions normally include a Christmas, Easter and Harvest Service.

11.2 In addition the school is well supported by local clergy and representatives of local religious groups who make monthly visits to the school, to conduct assemblies. This serves to truly enrich the spiritual experience for children and staff alike.

12. Monitoring and review

12.1 It is the role of the Curriculum Committee to review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. This is achieved through discussion with the Head teacher and the Rector.

This Policy was adopted by the Governing Body on the 23rd January 2009.

Signed:
Date:

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