



All Saints CE (VC) First School

Policy on Collective Worship

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Approved by:

Policy on Collective Worship

1 Aims and objectives

1.1 The aims and objectives of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

2 Collective worship

2.1 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.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

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

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship.

This is a daily whole-school assembly.

3.2 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, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns.

We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

3.3 The assemblies are normally conducted by the headteacher, the local reverend, the church children's worker, special visitors or other members of staff.

3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar.

Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

We plan our assemblies well in advance of the day they take place.

3.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children.

We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes.

Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school.

They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised.

All Saints First School and Busy Bees Pre-school is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.

- 3.6 Each term, there are particular assemblies that parents and carers are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.

The children also prepare and lead services in the local Church at Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Mothering Sunday and at the end of the school year.

- 3.7 Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

4 Right of withdrawal

- 4.1 At All Saints CE (VC) First School & Busy Bees Pre-school we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education or collective worship on the grounds of conscience, without giving a reason. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to write to the headteacher who will then invite the parents into school to discuss their concerns, clarify the nature of the RE and worship provided by the school and set out the options open to the parents as set out in education law. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasion, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects. Where a pupil is withdrawn from RE and do not take part in alternative religious education they will be supervised by an appropriate member of staff whilst doing work set by their parents which will seek to further their knowledge and understanding of their parents beliefs and values.

- 4.2 The headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

- 5.1 Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of the Headteacher who is also responsible for Religious Education.

The Headteacher will discuss concerns with the Reverend who is also responsible for Religious Education and take appropriate action. If further action was required, the matter would be reported to the Governing Body.

- 5.2 This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.