

.....Headteacher: Mrs Duncombe

.....Chair of Governors: Fr. John Caster

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St Barnabas' CE Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Vision:

We believe:

- Each child is uniquely created and loved by God.
- It is a privilege to nurture and develop our children.
- An outstanding education enables children to reach their full potential.
- Children are the future of our community.
- Christian faith informs behaviour and moulds character of our adults and children.

Each child is uniquely created and loved by God.

To the glory of God the Father who wills that his children should know him through the Lord Jesus Christ. The Foundation Stone of these schools was laid by John Stone Wigg. (1896)

St Barnabas' Church of England Primary School is a Christian community committed to excellence. We pride ourselves on our open relationship among school, parents, Church and our Parish community.

We strive to achieve the highest standards in a safe, happy and dynamic environment; where each individual can thrive morally, academically and spiritually whilst accepting responsibility for grasping all opportunities with both hands.

The school is proud to be a Christian environment whose Values of Love, Trust, Compassion, Reconciliation and Perseverance shape its decision-making and ethos.

Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctive Christian character of our school, reaffirms our Christian values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Our Worship is rooted in the Catholic tradition of the Church of England but involves the variety of traditions found in Anglican as well as other Christian traditions. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our spiritual formation and is supported by all staff and governors.

Aims

Collective worship at St Barnabas' supports the school's Christian identity and its values, by providing opportunities for students and staff:

- * to explore a relationship with God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
- * to reflect on our explicit Christian values
- * to develop personal spirituality, especially through prayer and a range other experiences
- * to be engaged in an exploration of the relevance and application of the Christian faith
- * to encourage the development of enquiring minds and the exploration and expression of personal views
- * to develop community spirit and shared Christian values
- * to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it.

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following may be described as shared Christian elements of collective worship:

- * Using the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- * Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Saints Days
- * Celebrating the Mass
- * Learning and saying Christian prayers from a number of sources, for example, the Lord's Prayer and the Grace
- * Using Anglican liturgy at levels appropriate to students'/pupils' age
- * Singing a wide variety of Christian hymns and songs
- * Experiencing Christian symbolism in worship and reflecting on its meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles through the engagement of the senses
- * Using prayer, silence and reflection

Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement. In line with the statutory requirement, a Christian act of collective worship is provided for all pupils every day. All teachers attend acts of collective worship. Time allocated to collective worship is not part of curriculum time. A Church led time of collective worship takes place each week. Currently the weekly programme is as follows:

Monday: Headteacher or Deputy Whole School

Tuesday: Church

Wednesday: Choral Worship

Thursday: Key Stage/ Class/ House

Friday: Superstar- Celebration

Planning

The Diocesan Framework forms the basis for the planning of collective worship. The local clergy and RE leaders work together throughout the year. Varying types of worship experiences are planned for, including prayer, music, silence, Bible reading, story, DVD and similar clips. CPD opportunities are provided for when necessary, relating to the planning and development of collective worship. Planning incorporates any possible and appropriate cross-curricular links.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The collective worship process is evaluated and monitored by the RE Leaders. Pupil questionnaires and conferencing contributes to the evaluation process. The views of governors attending collective worship are recorded on a monitoring sheet.

Self-evaluation and Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

School Self-evaluation is completed on the SIAMS Self-evaluation forms provided by the Diocese. Worship is inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act (SIAMS).

Parental Withdrawal

As a church school, worship plays a central part in our school life and is important educationally for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Therefore, although parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from this school activity, they are encouraged to discuss this fully with the Headteacher before reaching a decision. Teachers are asked to sign, as part of their Home School Agreement, a declaration that they will participate in all aspects of worship and support the Christian ethos.

Appendix

When briefing visitors for school worship, make sure you tell them:

- who exactly will attend, whether it will be the whole school or a section of it, and if so, which section
- what the school's aims, ethos and policies are
- how long the speaker is expected to talk for (10 – 12 minutes)
- the current assembly theme and context for the speaker - what has already been done and what will be done later in the term
- how pupils and staff are normally involved in collective worship^[1]_{SEP}
- what resources or hardware are available to them, should they so wish
- exactly how much their contribution will be - is it just the talk or will they be asked to choose the hymn and lead the prayers

and remember to:

- give them plenty of notice - don't assume that a visitor who wears an RE or religious "hat" can produce an assembly at a few moments notice!
- invite them to attend an act of collective worship beforehand so that they may see how the school conducts them, or, if this is not practical, lend them a copy of the collective worship policy document
- some visitors may also need to be told that collective worship is not an appropriate vehicle for hard sell evangelism, and that inclusive language ("we all believe....") is to be avoided. Visitors who are regularly involved in collective worship should appreciate sensitive feedback on the appropriateness of their contribution to the school assembly programme.

And finally.... NEVER leave a visiting speaker to take an act of collective worship alone, it is bad manners, bad educational practice, and bad churchmanship!