



Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed February 2017

Collective worship is a means of enabling children to experience a spiritual dimension, rooted in Christian teaching, values and traditions. It is often subsumed within assembly; worship is the time within that gathering when there will be quietness, reflection, a sense of thinking about something bigger than ourselves.

Assembly is to do with meeting as a group, sharing values that are to do with the ethos of the institution and its distinctive Christian character. Celebration, joy, curiosity, recognition of endeavour, all have their place. There will be an overlap between the explicit and implicit meaning of 'worship'.

Collective worship is required by law on a daily basis in all state schools. The nature of the worship has to be broadly Christian. In voluntary aided schools, such as The Hendreds, the added dimension of the historical and present connection with the church is recognised.

Principles

Practice will change, depending upon the composition of the staff and the relationship the vicar has with the children. These principles inform what we do:

- Worship is seen as a broad concept, including elements of awe, wonder, reflection, quietness, exploring and questioning.
- Tolerance of other beliefs and practices is expected, and the common human elements of faith, such as festivals and symbols, are explored.
- The teaching of the Anglican Church is at the core of worship.
- An understanding of the festivals, artefacts and symbols of the Church is an essential part of our work.
- We aim to invite children to pray or think quietly, rather than insisting on this.
- The involvement of the vicar is valued as children learn to recognise his/her belief, commitment and sincerity.

Guidelines

Assembly is held daily, usually in the morning. During the week we hope to ensure that children will have had time to experience a sense of having touched upon something of deep significance, however gently or fleetingly.

Worship need only be a small part of a larger assembly, during which other aspects of school life are affirmed.

Rituals are observed that encourage a sense of anticipation, quietness and respect. These include how the children enter and leave the hall, use of music, artefacts and symbols e.g. candles, instruments, books.

Assemblies include whole school, key stage and class.

When holding class assemblies, teachers may choose to have a very brief (10 minutes) time focused entirely on the worship. This is particularly suited to the reading of poems, listening to a special piece of music, learning a prayer, looking at and discussing reactions to a beautiful object, painting or flower for example.

Major Christian festivals and the end of each school year are marked by worship in the parish church, enabling pupils to increase their understanding and experience of sacred space.

Pupils have occasional age appropriate opportunities to contribute to leading collective worship through presentations, prayers and music.

Parents are reminded in the prospectus of their right to withdraw children from acts of worship.