

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Bosley St Mary's C of E Primary School

Organisation, Content & Structure

Organisation

The whole school, including members of staff, meets together daily in the hall each afternoon for collective worship, except on Thursdays when the class teachers conduct worship in their own rooms. Worship lasts approximately 15 minutes, but the length of time may vary.

Various people assist the school staff in conducting whole-school worship. Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to collective worship. Clergy of the parish are frequently invited, as are members of other local Christian churches and charitable organisations. On some occasions, such as the visits of *Open the Book*, Bobkins nursery children also join us.

On major festivals (e.g. Harvest, Christmas, Easter), collective worship is held in St. Mary's church. Some of these occasions are jointly celebrated with Bobkins and also with neighbouring Wincle C of E Primary School, in which case we alternate between Wincle and Bosley parish churches as our venue.

There are also occasions when we join other church schools in East Cheshire for worship elsewhere, such as the Y6 Diocesan Leavers' Service at Chester Cathedral/Astbury Parish Church.

If any children are withdrawn from collective worship, alternative supervised activities will be provided in the school library after consultation with the parents.

The following ongoing daily pattern is generally observed:

- Mondays 2:45pm: **Roots & Fruits – Christian Values.** Led by a staff member and followed up during the week in separate classes. (see classroom Reflection Boards)
- Tuesdays 2:45pm: **'Songs of Praise'**. A musical act of collective worship led by a staff member, with reference to themes in the songs.
- Wednesdays 2:45pm: **Vicar/Guest-led worship.** The **theme* is different each half term.**
- Thursdays Afternoon: **SEAL.** Each class teacher leads their own worship, following the half-termly **Social & Emotional** programme with a biblical focus.
- Fridays 2:45pm **Achievements & Celebrations:** Led by the Head Teacher, we share and celebrate what the children have achieved both inside and outside school. **The Ethos Group** plan and lead the liturgy, song and prayers.

Occasionally, pupils will plan and lead other times of collective worship on a one-off theme, and/or we consider a particular faith festival or special/saints day.

Content

It is the responsibility of the leader of each act of collective worship to plan for and to include a variety of ingredients within the clearly stated theme for the week. This may involve liaison with the Music/Worship Co-ordinator and the pupil tech. team, where necessary.

The content of the worship can include use of stories, poems, drama, songs, visual aids, prayers, moments of reflective silence, focal points, interactive activities for the children, power-point slides or video presentations, and consideration of work undertaken in the school curriculum.

A collection of resources - artefacts and leaders' books/print-outs from online - is available in school, normally kept in the PPA room, as an aid to planning.

We have developed a range of themes and topics through which collective worship takes place. We use the Chester Diocesan *'What's on'* as a comprehensive source of information and inspiration for our plans.

An over-arching theme is chosen for each half term, and weekly themes are developed from this and presented in a variety of ways.

Major special festivals and celebration days from the Christian church calendar and other faiths & cultures are planned in, eg. Sukkot, Eid, Diwali, saints days ...

Structure

Each act of collective worship will include several of the following elements:

- use of appropriate artefacts and focal points e.g. candles, cross, worship table cloth in the current liturgical colour;
- use of visual aids and slides/videos;
- use of spoken collects, responses, hymns and psalms as a focus.
- presentation of Bible stories and other passages of scripture;
- prayer in different forms - formal, interactive, children's own, silence and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of ourselves and others and quiet reflection;
- use of music. This will include CDs as an introduction and conclusion, singing and sometimes instrumental playing by members of the school;
- drama & puppets, etc;
- participation by the children;
- use of literature with implicit or explicit religious teaching;
- appreciation of the natural world and human activity;
- appreciation of the talents, achievements and work of ourselves and others;
- topical matters from the news or the locality;
- visitors who represent organisations and have been given a brief drawn up by the school.

(Adapted from the Carlisle Diocesan Collective Worship Guidelines)

Resources

Resourcing collective worship is ongoing as the school budget allows and by using the internet for links to ideas.

Visual aids/artefacts, posters and books are purchased as needed and are catalogued and stored in the PPA room/worship table storage. A complete list is in the worship table storage. CDs, accompanying music books and our updated song list are kept in the hall music cupboard.

Planning and Record Keeping

A system of long term, medium term and short term planning and recording documents are kept in school. The planning documents, rotas and themes are discussed and then a timetable drawn up by the Worship Co-ordinator and circulated to staff at the beginning of each term. It can also be found in the collective worship file and on the notice-board, both in the staff room.

These plans are kept over time to avoid repetition of stories/themes and other elements of worship, whilst ensuring a breadth of approach is used.

New/supply staff & student teachers are briefed as necessary by the worship co-ordinator.

Any plans relating to worship are kept fully up to date as each week unfolds.

The Worship Co-ordinator is available to assist with planning and practical support, should a member of staff/visitor request this.

Visitors

Each visitor is personally contacted by the Worship Co-ordinator. They are briefed on school policy and the aims for collective worship. Themes are discussed and suggestions made as to the content of each act of collective worship. Should any problems occur with an act of collective worship, the Head Teacher undertakes to deal with these in liaison with the Worship Co-ordinator. A personal message of thanks is sent as a follow-up to each visit.

Note

An 'assembly' is not an 'act of collective worship' but a gathering of the school for other purposes, e.g. notices, behaviour talks, presentation/launch of charity projects, etc.

Signatures and date:

Head Teacher: Raj Barard

Worship Co-ordinator: Rachel Mortishire-Smith

Policy last reviewed: October 2016

Next review date: October 2019