



Durley
CE (Controlled)
Primary School

Policy for Collective Worship

Summary : School Policy for Collective Worship

Prepared by: Curriculum Committee / RE Manager

Dated: November 2018

Review Date: November 2021

Durley CE (Controlled) Primary School

Policy for Collective Worship

Durley CE (Controlled) Primary School is subject to the requirements of the 1988 Education Act and the Education Act 1993, as outlined in Circular 1/94 'Religious education and Collective Worship'.

Our ethos

Our school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experiences it offers to all its pupils. At Durley Primary School, we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to promote the Christian foundation of our school, to celebrate and support all aspects of school life and to provide time for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children. Collective Worship will be known as 'Worship Time' in our school.

We believe that a person's core values are strongly held beliefs about themselves and the world around them that help to shape their lives. Through our school policy for collective worship, we want everyone within our school community to learn to show **love** for one another, **respect** for each other's differences and **forgiveness** towards others and ourselves.

Pattern of Collective Worship

As a voluntary controlled Church of England school, the daily act of Collective Worship at Durley will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, delivered in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England. In addition we believe that the daily act of Collective Worship is a valuable educational experience and in such should reflect the specific aims of the school.

An act of Collective Worship should be suited to the family background of the pupils. This will include pupils whose parents are Christians or of another faith, humanist, agnostic or atheist. It is an educational activity that may provide opportunity for worship. The kind of worship that rings true in school is one in which everything that is held to have 'worship' by the particular group can be celebrated and praised.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the Daily Act of Worship. A parent wishing to do so will need to make a written request to the Head teacher.

Aims

The main aims of Worship Time are:

- To provide opportunities for pupils to worship God.
- To promote pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To enable pupils to explore their own beliefs.
- To promote a common sense of ethos and shared values.
- To help our pupils to develop respect for and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others.
- To help our pupils understand the nature and language of worship.
- To support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, poetry, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication.

We also believe that collective worship makes a vital contribution to the development of pupils in the following areas:

Collective worship contributes to the **moral** development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- reflect on matters concerning right and wrong;
- hear about incidents in which, and people in whom, goodness or right are exemplified;
- learn about religious and other teachings concerning right and wrong.

Collective worship contributes to the **social** development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- gather with others for a common purpose;
- share times of joy and sadness with others;
- learn how to behave appropriately within a specific social setting;
- increase self-confidence in public speaking / dramatic performance.

Collective worship contributes to the **cultural** development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- hear and respond to music from a range of times, places and cultures;
- reflect upon ideas concerning the concept of beauty;
- appreciate the range of talents and gifts found within the school community and beyond.

Collective worship contributes to the **intellectual** development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- learn and to engage with their minds;
- have ideas concerning values confirmed or challenged;
- reflect on the importance of learning in the context of our school community;
- consider the power of words.

Collective Worship is based on specific themes. Advantage should be made of visiting speakers or organizations, local or nationally organised events or charitable fund raising activities, or topical matters, remembering that Collective Worship must be of a broadly Christian character. A record of Collective Worship themes will be maintained. Our core resource is 'Values for Life – Teaching Christian Values in the Primary School. We will also use the RE syllabus Understanding Christianity to build children's understanding of the Christian religion.

Friday's assembly will be distinct in that it will recognise achievements inside and outside of school, and celebrate these achievements, in addition to concluding and summarising the week of themed acts of Collective Worship.

Organisation

In order to promote our pupils' learning and meet the needs of different age groups, our Worship Times vary in size and groupings.

- Whole school Worship Time led by the Headteacher.
- Key Stage Worship led by a teacher from each Key Stage team.
- Whole school Celebration Worship Time led by the Headteacher.

Grace and 'Farewell' prayers are said daily in class.

Special celebrations of worship for the whole community are held at school, or at the parish church, for parents, governors and friends of the school. These mark special days and festivals such as Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' worship.

We welcome visitors and members of our community to lead worship in accordance with our ethos and policy for worship. Regular worships are led by members of our Ministry.

Themes for Worship

Themes for worship are based upon 'Values for Life', around special events in the Christian calendar, themes from SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) and issues arising from the ethos and everyday life of the school. They are visited as part of a two year cycle.

Elements of Worship and Resources

Each class has an area in their classroom that is a focus for their class Acts of Worship, for example a display or a small prayer table.

There is a variety of specific artefacts to aid Worship Times. These include a variety of crosses, candles, other Christian symbols (eg.Fish), posters, bibles / bible stories, prayer books, music. Each class should have a Bible and a collection of prayers to use. Other bibles, bible stories, Christian artefacts and prayer books are kept in the library and resources area.

All hymn music and CD's are kept in the hall. Teacher resource books / folders with ideas for Collective Worship are kept in the resource area.

Worship may include:

- Songs and music from a variety of cultures.
- Prayer (both traditional, contemporary and simultaneous)
- Reflection and contemplation.
- Individual and group activity.
- Readings, sermons.
- Special clothing, artefacts.
- Discussion, speech and silence.
- Procession and ritual action.
- Food and drink.
- Dance and drama.
- Use of the senses.
- Artistic imagery.
- Different seating plans.

Evaluation and Monitoring

The head teacher is responsible for monitoring the Collective Worship. This process will involve all staff. It shall be carried out as part of the whole school self-review process.

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