

SIDDINGTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL & KEMBLE PRIMARY SCHOOL



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Please note that Kemble is not a Church of England School, and some assemblies / worship may alter due to needs within the school or community and they may not always have a Christian focus although they will always follow the school values.

The Trust Deed and school ethos statement inform the policy and practice of collective worship in Siddington CE School.

Members of staff responsible	Mrs Anne Newton & Mrs Carol Dougill
Sub-Committee responsible	Ethos
Date agreed with staff	June 15
Date discussed with pupils	NA
Date agreed at Sub-Committee	
Date approved at Governing Body	
Frequency of policy review	Triennial
Date next review due	June 2018

Document Version Control

Issue Number	Issue Date	Summary of changes
1.0		New policy

Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life and purposes of the Church school and is fundamental to the development of its Christian foundation, vision, values and ethos. The Senior Leadership Team will be responsible for establishing policy in consultation with the governing body.

Collective worship provides a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story, the mutual giving and receiving of worth as well as times of reflection and prayer. At its best, collective worship is inspirational and transformational.

The Church school is a community which is inspired by the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. God the Father, the source of all being and life; God the Son, who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection; and God the Holy Spirit, who makes Christ known in the world. The fundamental part that worship plays in the life of the school requires that it is given the highest priority and there is an expectation that *all* members of the community (children and all staff) will be present other than in the most exceptional circumstances.

Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils that takes account of their age and aptitude. The 1988 Education Reform Act states parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. However, as collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, there is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the head teacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

The governors at Siddington School have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document.

Collective worship in a Church of England school aims to:

- provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to respond to the presence, power and peace of God
- evoke a sense of beauty, awe, wonder.
- enable children to become familiar with the Bible and grow in their appreciation that for Christians it is God's word.
- provide opportunities for reflection, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality.
- help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well known Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship.

- strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to, and reaffirming, the core Christian values which underpin the school's vision, policies, curriculum and moral code.
- develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts that each child and adult brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God
- reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and learn to appreciate the significance of mystery i.e. that we can't understand and explain everything
- foster a concern for others within the school community and wider world.
- deepen appreciation of the gift of the natural world and the importance of acting responsibly toward the environment
- encourage respect of other people's religious beliefs and practices.

Planning Worship

We try to think about offering a little something for everyone when we plan our worship times:

What diet do we offer our pupils?

Where is the -

1. Solitude and simplicity (Ascetic)
2. Confrontation with evil (Activist)
3. Use of ritual and symbol (Traditionalist)
4. Worship that appeals to the senses (The sensate)
5. Chance to experience God or find solace and be moved by nature (The Naturalist)
6. Worship that appeals to the mind (The intellectual)
7. Celebratory and joyful (The Enthusiast)
8. Opportunity to be allowed just to be enthralled and adore something (The Contemplative)
9. Chance to think about serving others (The caregiver)

Organisation

In our school collective worship is organised around our core Christian values of: Compassion Respect Courage Truthfulness Thankfulness & Aspiration

These are arranged over a two year period and combined with SEAL themes so that there is a new theme every term. Mrs Newton plans the worship assemblies taking into consideration evaluations from the previous year / term and by chatting to the worship committee to find out what children want worship acts to cover. Key dates in the Christian calendar are also

reflected such as the Easter story as well as that of other faiths. The theme of the term is linked to our school values. For each theme, children learn a story from the bible and its importance to the Christian faith. The Lion's Storyteller Bible is the source for many of the bible stories that we share in assembly although many texts and other symbols and artefacts are used during a theme.

Assemblies are always conducted in a calm and quiet manner where children enter the hall quietly whilst listening to music. There may be occasions when worship is carried out outside, in church or in a classroom. There is then a whole school song followed by a story or piece of drama related to the theme. Children are often used as an integral part of the story. Each assembly encompasses an element of collective worship where children share in a period of reflection about what they have experienced in the assembly, silence or a prayer. Prayer may be accompanied by a visual stimulus such as a cross, candle or piece of artwork or a piece of music.

At Siddington worship times are made special by the focus table using cloths of the liturgical colours of the seasons of the Church Year, a cross and a candle, ritual and liturgical responses and welcomes.

Assemblies happen at the beginning or the end of the day and are at a set time. We expect worship and assembly times to last for 20 minutes or more.

DAY	TYPE OF WORSHIP - SIDDINGTON	TYPE OR WORSHIP - KEMBLE
Monday	Whole school by head teacher	Whole school by head teacher
Tuesday	Open the book	Whole school by Deputy or Psalms
Wednesday	Singing worship	Hymn practice
Thursday	Whole school staff or Baptist minister	Open the book
Friday	Celebration & Reflection - Year 6	Celebration & Reflection - Year 6

Monitoring arrangements

The school governors are responsible for monitoring the impact of collective worship in school and will do this by reviewing the long and medium term plans for collective worship, visiting assemblies and talking with pupils. The aim of this is to continually develop and strengthen our collective worship.