

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Approved by Staffing & Curriculum Committee: January 2015
Review Date: January 2018



This Policy has been drawn up by the governors of the school in consultation with the head teacher, worship co-ordinator and other members of staff.

Rationale

Because we believe that God longs for each person to grow into their full potential, we want our school to be a place where:

- Everybody receives a loving welcome
- Each child is treated as uniquely gifted in body, mind and spirit

Growing and learning become a way of life for everybody involved in the school

People talk a lot about the importance of ethos in a school. Others might refer to the spirit of the school, in the same way that people talk about team spirit.

- How it feels
- What behaviour is expected of everybody, teachers and children
- What kind of buzz there is in the school
- What kind of focus and energy in the children as they learn

These are the kinds of things that make all the difference, and they grow out of shared values, the things we believe, and the things we know to be for the best. These values are the bedrock on which everything is built and the anvil on which everything is hammered and shaped. Collective worship is one of the many ways that the school brings all these values together.

Because we aim for acts of worship to be inclusive of all pupils there is an expectation that all pupils and staff will be present. Careful planning and preparation ensure that there are clear learning intentions for pupils. Collective worship is first and foremost for the educational benefit of all pupils. It is a shared activity that allows for a variety of responses, and provides an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on stimuli which allow the human spirit to respond with integrity. The school is committed to respect the integrity of the religious communities from which pupils come.

The school will also offer the opportunity to explore, reflect upon and respond to the mystery and meaning of the Christian faith.

Legal Requirements

Kennet Valley is a VA Church of England Primary School

As such it has a Trust Deed which states that worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England'.

In accordance with legal requirements (School Standards & Framework Act 1998) an act of collective worship, taking account of the age, aptitude and background of pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents. The school expects that withdrawal will only be made following discussions with the head teacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school has a system of suitable supervision for children withdrawn from acts of worship. In an aided school the staff are expected to attend the act of collective worship.

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Aims of Collective Worship

At Kennet Valley School Collective Worship aims to:

- Strengthen and support the school community and celebrate each unique individual member made in the image of God
- Give expression to, reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- Allow reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, as well as the local and international community
- Develop a clear understanding of the rhythm of the church year
- Contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others – a recognition of the vulnerability of self and others
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to:
 - Praise and reach out to God
 - Experience stillness and quiet
 - Respond to Christian language and symbolism
 - Experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation
 - Helping pupils begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
 - Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future

Structure

In Kennet Valley School worship is organised in the following way:

- Teacher/visitor/pupil led worship
- Thinking time in class based groups using value for life resources
- Whole school worship takes place in Church for special celebrations within the church year

Planning

The main source for planning of worship at Kennet Valley School is the Values for Life Pack, supplemented by Diocese resources. In planning worship regard is given to:

- Observing the cycle of the church's year and selecting themes appropriate to this and the pupils' aptitude and ability
- How worship reflects the Anglican heritage
- Special occasions, e.g. welcoming new pupils to school or acknowledging the departure of older pupils
- Linking with the broad dimensions of the curriculum
- Creating an atmosphere for worship by the use of appropriate music, visual aid and symbols
- Using the whole range of creative arts to appeal to the pupil's imagination.

Recording and Evaluation

All acts of worship are planned and recorded, and evaluation takes place during staff meetings and school council sessions to see how worship was received. This is achieved by asking a child, teacher or class to reflect on the worship, and these evaluations are part of the ongoing monitoring of Collective Worship at staff meetings. This is achieved by the use of the Values for Life worship scheme and the record keeping of all visitors to school and ongoing monitoring of the acts of worship by the head teacher.

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Monitoring

The Collective Worship will be monitored by:

1. Discussion at staff and governor meetings (minutes to be kept with the records). This discussion will include:
 - Review of content and methodology
 - Suitability for age, aptitude and ability
 - Variety of styles, groupings and leadership
 - Links to curriculum and classroom experience
 - Resources and budget
 - INSET
2. Review of job description and role of collective worship co-ordinator
3. Attendance at worship by foundation governors for monitoring purposes
4. Checking that the requirements of the law are being met