



BATHFORD Church of England. (V.C.) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship (Koinonia) Subject Leader – Becky Hayter

Policy for Collective Worship

Rationale: This policy statement has been formally adopted by the governing body, in consultation with the Headteacher and staff. It is consistent with the overall aims of the school (grow, care, serve, share) as expressed in our vision statement. It is consistent with the Christian Foundation of the school as expressed in the Trust Deed. It takes into account the worship guidelines recommended by the Diocese of Bath and Wells and SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican/ Methodist schools). It is in accordance with DfES legislation.

Aims:

1. To encourage children's natural sense of wonder of God's creation and to develop their qualities of curiosity and appreciation.
2. To offer children an opportunity for experiential understanding of the adoration of God in a way that is individual and appropriate for them, and which allows them to respond comfortably in their own worship.
3. To make a contribution to the spiritual well being of the school community.
4. To reflect the religious nature of Collective Worship as it reflects our Church of England foundation and school ethos.
5. To make a major contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils.

Desired Outcome:

A school which regards the Act of Worship as a time when teachers, children and visitors may express an awareness that there is more to life than our material existence, may share concerns and experiences, and affirm the beliefs and values of the school community. We would want it to be an educationally enriching experience for all participants, to administer to all and to put our concerns and experiences into a wider perspective. We want to contribute to the life and well being of the school, springing from firm Christian foundations.

Collective Worship (Koinonia)

Procedures:

1. An act of Koinonia will take place daily where possible.
2. The worship will be planned to be relevant and meaningful to the age and aptitude of the community present.
3. It will be inclusive of all and exclude none. The integrity of pupils and staff should be respected.
4. The act of worship will allow for a variety of responses, from awareness and appreciation through respect and commitment to devotion and adoration.
5. The act of worship will be taken by members of staff, the vicar, the children or by carefully chosen visitors. All those responsible for arranging an act of worship will be given a copy of the worship calendar for the year and a guidance sheet, and will receive due notice of the times they are required to lead the worship.
6. On occasions worship will be shared with the wider church family of St. Swithun's Parish church.
7. Worship will be planned to take account of the major festivals and with the curriculum plan of the school year as reflected in the School Development Plan. This planning will be shared with visitors where appropriate. Reference will be made to the other main world religions as and when appropriate, to raise children's awareness of these major faiths and to compliment the Awareness, Mystery and Value Syllabus.
8. The plan will be drawn up each term for the coming term and will aim to provide continuity and progression in considering issues and an opportunity for children to develop spiritually over a period of time. Termly planning will reflect whole school themes. A Collective Worship Log will be maintained by the co-ordinator.
9. The Act of Worship will follow a recognisable format.
 - a) The worship should be about 15 minutes.
 - b) There may be a hymn/ song in an appropriate place, which wherever possible will relate to the theme of worship.
 - c) There may be a quiet time for reflection or a prayer.
 - d) The worship will have a clear focus and will sometimes involve pupil participation. The theme will be developed over a period of time.
 - e) Elements used may include music, listening to stories, Bible readings and other relevant literature, use of movement, mime, drama, artefacts and audio-visual material.

The Education Reform Act of 1988 makes provision for pupils and teachers to withdraw from collective worship. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to express their wish in writing to the Headteacher. Any pupils whose parents exercise their right to withdraw will be given appropriate study work for the duration of the collective worship.