

Collective Worship Policy



Great Easton Church of England Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

As a Church of England Aided School, the worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed. Full account has also been taken of the Education Acts of 1944 and 1988. The assistance and advice from the Diocesan Officers is gratefully acknowledged.

Worship must be appropriate, taking into account the ages, abilities and backgrounds of the pupils involved. It should also be educational, bringing pupils to the threshold of worship, not attempting to indoctrinate, in any way. Material from a variety of religious traditions could be used wherever appropriate. The Act of Worship needs to be spiritual and cohesive.

Aims

The aim in our school worship is to give expression to the common values which underpin the school's existence as a community and to provide experiences which strengthen positive attitudes and dispositions in all pupils.

The aim of the collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- worship God
- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- respond to the worship offered.

Objectives

The content of our school worship will incorporate the following objectives:

- To celebrate all that is good and express thankfulness at the joy of being alive
- To provide opportunities for pupils to share what is meaningful and significant to them
- To give time for silent reflection and exploration of inner space

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- To illustrate forms of worship through silent contemplation, dance, singing, symbols etc
- To provide a rich variety of forms of expression eg art, drama, music, story
- To provide an opportunity for sharing common concerns and responsibilities

The Weekly Pattern

Themes for assembly are planned on a half-termly basis in conjunction with Canon Ivy and Reverend Cilla. This programme may be changed if matters of local, national or international importance arise unexpectedly. The weekly focus is shared in every Wednesday's Grapevine newsletter to parents.

When the school assembles together for an act of worship, children walk in quietly, listening to music. The person leading follows the theme planned. As well as a story or activity, the children will sing a song, listen to a short prayer and be given the opportunity for a short period of quiet reflection. Birthdays are regularly celebrated. Every Friday the children have the opportunity to share their achievements with the rest of the school.

Usually a weekly assembly programme will include:

Headteacher's assembly.

Class-led worship

Hymn Practice

Rector visit

Celebration assembly.

A record of these assemblies is kept on the assembly plan in the hall for the Year 5 & 6 assembly leaders to use. In addition all teachers, Canon Ivy and reverend Cilla and the assembly leaders are emailed a copy of the weekly outline to use.

Involvement

All staff and children attend whole school assemblies as this is an important part of the school day and develops the whole school ethos. However, parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is made clear in the school prospectus. If parents

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decide to take this option for their children arrangements will be made so that the child is not left to feel isolated or different. Worship is inclusive and parents and children should understand that worship is an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected.

Children, staff, parents and visitors can be involved in a variety of ways. Opportunities for developing positive contributions to acts of worship are developed through sharing assemblies, celebration assemblies as well as each class having a turn leading worship assembly on a Tuesday.

In addition to the rector's assemblies and termly communion service it is important that a church school tries to give children experiences of worship in Church. This can be through term time services to celebrate the major Christian festivals and for special occasions such as Year 6 children leaving for secondary school. Sometimes services are arranged on Sunday that involve families and groups from the school and on occasions the whole school such as for the Christingle service.

Organising, Planning and Monitoring Worship

The Headteacher is responsible for worship. This is monitored by the Governing Body in accordance with the School Improvement Plan. Members of the school community, teachers, LSAs and children conduct evaluations of worship to ensure we are reflective.

Signed:

Date: May 2015

Ratified by Governors:

Review Date: May 2017