



Through our understanding of the Christian Faith, we recognise our responsibility to encourage all children to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10)

We believe that our children should:

- Live healthy lives
- Be resilient
- Be accepting of others and celebrate difference,
- Be confident
- Have self-belief
- Have problem-solving skills
- Be able to work collaboratively with others
- Have a range of interests
- Be aspirational
- Be aware of their impact on the environment
- Be independent

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Aims

The aims of collective worship are to provide the opportunity for pupils:

- to gather together in community
- to experience the practice of religious worship which may lead them to worship
- to enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Objectives

- develop a community spirit and a common ethos (Social)
- reflect on the values and concerns of the school and the community it serves (Social/Moral)
- celebrate the achievements and gifts of all (Spiritual)
- create a sense of awe, wonder and the mystery of life (Spiritual)
- guided reflection and stillness (Spiritual)

- learn about and understand the beliefs and values of the Christian and other faiths (Spiritual/Moral)
- enable children to explore their own beliefs and values (Spiritual/Moral)
- celebrate and learn about festivals and cultures of all faiths (Cultural)
- appreciate the need to care for the world (Moral)
- deepen and widen a child's emotional responses (Spiritual)
- promote respect and sensitivity of the beliefs and values of others (Moral)
- respond to the worship offered (Spiritual)

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Law and the Methodist Foundation The 1988 Education Act, states that 'all maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents) which must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. Collective worship in voluntary controlled schools with a religious character should be in accordance with the school's trust deed. The Methodist foundation of the school means that the worship will be consistent with the principles and practices of the Methodist Church and will be Christian in character.

The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. The head teacher is responsible for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents are informed of their right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship through the information in the school brochure and in introductory meetings for parents. They can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents must inform the Headteacher in writing of their wish to withdraw their child from collective worship but do not have to give reasons for their request. Staff, should they wish to exercise their right of withdrawal from collective worship, must ensure that they have informed the Head of their decision, but should note the requirement that they may be required to assist in the supervision of pupils in assembly, as necessary.

IMPLEMENTATION

Leaders

Collective Worship/Assembly takes place each morning. Different member of staff will lead the worship. From time to time we are also visited by members of M.A.S.T., who come into school to deliver Collective Worship. Other visitors may include representatives from charities, visitors from other cultures and faiths, and speakers from different sections of the community.

Planning

Our Planning is based on the 'Values for Life' publication. The staff and the Methodist Minister will plan worship based on the termly theme. The content of the worship may reflect seasonal, local and national events.

Expectations of children

Quiet, orderly behaviour and respectful attitudes on entering, leaving and throughout the assembly are expected of the children. The children have been involved in creating Rules for Collective Worship. They are encouraged to take part through listening, sharing, singing and praying but the integrity of each individual is recognised.

Ingredients and methods

The worship will normally consist of:

- Input on theme by person leading
- Time of reflection/prayer
- Song/Hymn A variety of elements may be used such as:
 - Drama
 - Poems
 - Stories
 - Questions and answers
 - Short Bible passages
 - Music
 - Visual aids

Music

Music from CDs will be played as children enter and leave. This will be chosen by the leader of the worship or the children who help organise the music. A digital copy of words and music to the new Methodist hymn book, Singing the Faith has been given by Bakewell Methodist Church for use in Collective Worship. A mixture of modern hymns and songs as well as traditional hymns will be used. The minister may suggest particular ones to fit in with the theme which can be learned in hymn practice.

Prayers

An opportunity for pupils to experience stillness and quietness is seen as important and children will be given time during assembly to think and reflect on the theme. Participation in prayer can never be imposed but we stress the need for stillness, reflection and respect for others and children will be invited to join in the prayers as they are able. Traditional prayers such as the Lord's Prayer will be learned. Children continue to be encouraged to write their own prayers incorporating many of their own ideas. A short prayer, written by children is used at the end of every day.

Atmosphere

Staff can enhance the atmosphere by their presence and participation. Those leading worship may find a visual focus such as flowers, a cross, a Bible or a candle can help to set the scene.

Celebration assemblies

Parents and families are invited to the celebration assemblies on Friday in which the children take a lead role. These assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Children write a prayer for the end of their Celebration Assembly.

Resources

Resources are available to help teachers prepare assemblies. These are gradually being developed.

Keeping records

A folder will be kept on the table in the hall. This will contain

- The termly list of themes and Wednesday visitors
- Staff rota
- List of songs/hymns known
- Record of themes and songs for each day

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The school will monitor, evaluate and review this policy to assess its implementation and effectiveness. Teachers are encouraged to talk to pupils about their experience of the acts of worship in the school and members of staff are asked to evaluate the assemblies they have taken. Feedback from pupil and parent questionnaires will also be included in the evaluation.

Our Foundation Governors monitor Collective Worship by visiting on occasions throughout the year and giving feedback to the Head Teacher and then to the Governing Body.

This policy will be shared with and acceptable to all staff and approved by Governors.

March 2025