

Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge C.E. Primary School

Policy:

Collective Worship

Last Review: Spring 2016

Responsible: Headteacher

Review Date: Spring 2018

We are a Christian School where every child matters, is valued and is able to shine

The school's ethos is one where a positive attitude of care and understanding is promoted, where Christian values are pivotal to the life of the school and where adults and children respect faith and culture of other people. Children are always encouraged, motivated and supported to achieve the best they can in all aspects of the curriculum.

At Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge C. E. Primary School we aim to provide a caring, supportive and stimulating environment with high quality teaching through which to foster....

- A high level of literacy and numeracy and an enquiring mind which wants to learn more each day;
- Independent young people who are confident, flexible and able to cooperate with others;
- Imagination and creative expression through a wide range of media;
- Conscientious young citizens of our multi-cultural society who are tolerant and respect others' values;
- Pride in achievement and a desire to succeed;
- Effective links between the school, the child's home and the community which promote aspiration and high expectations;
- Equality of opportunity for all;

Our vision will be realised by:

- Creating a safe and healthy learning environment; so that every child will know that they are valued, will enjoy learning, aspire to and achieve high standards and make excellent progress.
- Providing innovative and creative cross curricular education opportunities for all learners and enabling their independence as learners.
- Developing a flexible approach to teaching and learning within school and in the community thereby ensuring a rich variety of educational experience.
- We encourage an openness of attitudes towards the community in which the school is situated and concern for the needs and opportunities of the wider world.

The implementation of this vision will be the foundation from which our children will become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens of the future.

At Coalbrookdale C E Primary School our daily worship consists of a gathering of children and staff to explore and respond to deeply held beliefs and values through a range of activities.

Aims

- To enable children to experience worship as a quality activity, central to the life of the school and its religious foundation.
- Through Christian Worship, to bring praise, prayer and thanksgiving to God.
- To celebrate shared beliefs and values.
- To make worship a central focus to Coalbrookdale C E Primary School's ethos.
- To create a special time in the day with an atmosphere conducive to worship.
- To provide opportunities for individual response and reflection.

- To teach children how to worship.
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues.

Collective Worship Statement

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Organisation of collective worship

There is a daily act of worship for all children, coming together as an extended family. This takes place at 10.20 am most mornings. This is usually as a whole school however we also gather together as a Key Stage and hold class assemblies during each term.

Parents/Carers are invited to join in with worship at school from time to time, especially to celebrate any festivals, and are always welcomed to our worship in church.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from our Collective Worship, and staff also have the right to choose whether they attend. Provisions for this will be made when necessary and staff allocated to look after the children. This is made clear in the school prospectus and website.

The act of worship is central to the life of the school and it is not an occasion for evangelism. These acts of worship are both reverent and relevant.

Content of Collective Worship

In discussion with the Clergy, the Head teacher, Staff and Governors, a thematic approach to Collective Worship has been developed. This can take the form of local and global issues, festivals and readings from the Bible or Christian values. We use materials such as 'We are all born free' produced by Amnesty International and 'We are Britain' by Benjamin Zephaniah' to raise questions and provide opportunities to reflect on British values and life in modern Britain.

We encourage pupils to be reflective about their own beliefs and to promote tolerance and engender a respect towards different people's faiths, feelings and values.

There are opportunities for participation in a range of activities, which enable children to express their spirituality through stories, pictures, videos, artefacts music, dance, drama, questions, prayers, purposeful silence and reflection.

- At the beginning of each week the theme is introduced to the children by Mrs. Blackburn. The theme is then continued each week by staff leading the Worship on a rota basis. Class teachers often involve their own pupils to help lead the Worship with them, as and when appropriate.

- Thursday Collective Worship is led by the local clergy, relating to the theme of the week and linking into the worship and traditions of the Christian church. A variety of approaches are used, which allows the children to express their spiritual values through drama, music and rhyme. Open the Book has now been introduced and takes place regularly. This is led by members from all three local parishes and governors.
- Wednesday Collective Worship is led by one of our Assistant Headteachers on alternate weeks, and is also linked to the weekly theme. Sometimes this is organised into two Key Stage Assemblies.
- The Friday Collective Worship is usually led by Mrs. Blackburn and is a 'Celebration of Achievement'. Children and staff celebrate their achievements from the week in any field e.g. academic, sport, music, behaviour and there are also presentations of certificates, trophies and prizes. Children who receive school achievement awards are mentioned in the newsletter on Fridays.
- We have many links with our local parish church and the local clergy are members of our Governing Body and frequent visitors to school.
- The local churches have Sunday services in the school each half term.
- There are at least four acts of collective worship, held annually at Holy Trinity or St Luke's, where parents, friends, clergy and community meet together to celebrate Easter or Whitsun, Harvest, Christmas and Year 6 Leavers service.
- Representatives from other denominations are regularly invited to lead or take part in collective worship.

Different styles of music (including the instrumentalists and vocalists in the school) are listened to at the opening, closing and during each act of Collective Worship. Some music is linked to the thematic approach and the children also select music of their choice for the occasion.

A hymn practice takes place on a weekly basis when new hymns are sung and children come together to practise.

At Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge C E Primary School Worship is prepared carefully with the use of singing, music, prayer, poetry, reflection, meditation, readings, ceremony and the use of symbols and artefacts. The planning in process ensures that children and adults present are able to participate as they may choose.

Approaches

At Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge C E Primary School a variety of approaches will be used by the Head Teacher, members of staff, Clergy and children. Children are encouraged individually, in groups or as a whole class to contribute to the planning, leading and participating in our daily worship.

There are opportunities for the children to share and "show" work and celebrate achievements emanating from our school life.

Collective Worship includes prayer and praise. Those present are encouraged to contribute both individual and published prayers and thoughts and join together in songs, hymns, drama and music. Stories and poems are selected carefully to enhance the theme chosen for the week.

Collective Worship is a "special time" where there is an opportunity for reflection and the lighting of candles.

The order of service varies but is generally determined by the person who leads our Collective Worship, who is guided by the theme for the week. This may include a hymn or song, prayer/reflection, story or poem, drama and appropriate music.

There is a Focus Table and Worship Board, which often has a cross, candle and /or other focus objects.

Prayers include Responses, The Lord's Prayer and The Grace. There are also sung prayers e.g. Shalom.

Monitors are responsible for preparing the Main Hall for Collective Worship.

Planning and Resources

Staff and Clergy use a wide variety of resources including books, videos, IWB, artefacts and the internet for planning, according to the theme of the week. Resources are stored mainly in a central location for easy access, although some maybe in classrooms for curriculum requirements.

The Head Teacher and RE coordinator attend Inset for Religious Education. Through discussion with County Advisors, Staff and Clergy the Head Teacher and RE Coordinator order appropriate resources and evaluate Collective Worship.

Special Needs

Children with special needs take a full and active part in our Collective Worship and participate fully in all the activities. These children are enabled to express their spirituality through story and music etc bringing them to the threshold of worship evoking such responses as awe and wonder.

Additional experiences

Evaluation

A folder is kept as a record of Collective Worship, outlining the values covered, weekly themes and suggested resources. Evaluations of collective worship are encouraged from governors who attend as a part of their monitoring role.

With certain topics follow up work is pursued by the class teacher within the classroom thus developing and expanding on the RE syllabus.

Occasional Acts of Worship incorporate a significant element of questions put to the children to recap on previous acts of worship and to ascertain the level of understanding and depth of meaning explored in the last few acts of collective worship. This is always differentiated for the wide range of ages and abilities of the children.

The content of Collective Worship is reviewed each term and resources evaluated. Requests by Staff for specific resources are encouraged.

Religious Education is also evaluated regularly and obviously the curriculum links closely with the Collective Worship Programme. There is a detailed Religious Education Policy and Scheme of Work based on the Telford Agreed Syllabus.

Inspection Judgements of a Church School

School is judged on the question “What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?” in SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) Inspections which take place, in church schools, on a 5 yearly cycle.

An ‘Outstanding’ school is one where:

- Learners are always engaged during worship. They enjoy the worship and express enthusiasm for it.
- Learners frequently lead significant aspects of worship.
- All members of the school community, regardless of background, feel included and affirmed by worship.
- Worship inspires thinking and day to day actions of the whole school community.
- Learners experience and are familiar with a range of Anglican tradition and practice.
- The planning of collective worship is always thorough and creative, involving a wide variety of stakeholders.
- A formal system of evaluation is in place which shapes future planning and leads to improvement.

At Coalbrookdale, we seek to fulfil these elements of an ‘outstanding’ Church school in the same way that we seek and achieve to be an ‘outstanding’ school providing for each child both academically and spiritually.

This policy will be reviewed again in 2016/17, as part of the School Improvement Plan.