



GRASSINGTON CE (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Introduction

Grassington is a Church of England, Voluntary Controlled, Primary School. Collective Worship is undertaken as determined by the legal requirements established by the 1988 Education Act. This states that:

“all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship”.

Collective Worship

At the heart of Collective Worship is the celebration of Christian values which are held to be important by the whole school community. Our 7Cs code at the heart of our aims and vision for the school focuses primarily on courage, care, co-operation, confidence, communication, consideration and courtesy but we also focus on all the other Christian values in our worship.

Collective worship provides the children with the opportunity to worship God and consider, with reverence, issues of a spiritual nature. Collective Worship develops in the children an awareness of the fundamental questions of life as raised by human experience.

Collective Worship takes place in a supportive environment where children are able to participate in a collective experience whilst retaining individuality. At best it should contribute significantly to the all round development of each child and to the ethos of the school.

Aims

Legally Collective Worship should:

- fulfil the requirements of the 1988 Education Act;
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- be in accordance with the Trust Deed;

In addition Collective Worship should:

- reflect and further the aims of the school mission statement;
- take into account the educational, social and religious context of the school and wider community;

- provide children with the opportunity to worship God;
- be ecumenical in nature emphasising similarities yet identifying and embracing differences;
- respect the integrity of all concerned;
- be accessible and meaningful to all;
- encourage questioning and develop thinking skills;
- celebrate aspiration and achievement;
- develop a sense of community in which the children can contemplate the meaning and mystery of the world.

Objectives

By the end of KS1, through Collective Worship, children will have had opportunities to:

- listen and begin to think about their own response;
- participate and contribute their thoughts and ideas;
- celebrate alongside others;
- begin to appreciate the value of being thoughtful and still;
- enjoy a feeling of togetherness;
- experience the feelings of awe and wonder;
- explore different emotions;
- become aware of their own contribution and uniqueness.

By the end of KS2, through Collective Worship, children will have had opportunities to:

- listen and formulate their own responses and be sensitive to those of others.
- participate more fully and plan their own act of Collective Worship;
- thoughtfully and relevantly contribute their ideas with confidence;
- develop an understanding of the meaning of celebration;
- reflect and begin to evaluate in periods of quiet contemplation;

- appreciate the value of belonging to and being part of a worshipping community.
- explore and express a wide range of emotions and feelings and to relate them to their life;
- show empathy and encouragement to others;
- begin to develop an awareness of the spiritual nature of the individual.

These objectives will be achieved through carefully planned themes. These are linked where appropriate to ongoing topics and to significant points in the Christian and calendar year. The topic plans are detailed each term.

Reviewed: February 2014

Next Review: July 2014 (with reference to new curriculum Sept 2014)

Guidelines for Collective Worship

Responsibility for Collective Worship

Collective Worship is the legal responsibility of the Governing Body following consultation with the Headteacher. Foundation Governors have a particular responsibility to take an interest in Collective Worship.

Leadership of Collective Worship

Leadership of Collective Worship is the shared responsibility of teaching staff and the children. All teachers have the right of withdrawal from Collective Worship and it is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that there is a daily act of Collective Worship.

Visitors

Visitors are always welcome and on occasions lead the act of Collective Worship. Members of the clergy and other faiths groups are asked to contribute to the Collective Worship of the school. This will be done in consultation with the Foundation Governors and be within the remit of the Collective Worship (and RE) policy.

Organisation

Collective Worship takes place daily for all children (with the exception of those who have been withdrawn by parents).

Times for Collective Worship are flexible and will alter on occasions when appropriate.

Planning for Collective Worship

At Grassington School we believe that Collective Worship should be planned with the following elements in mind:

- time for thinking;
- time for sharing;

- time for listening;
- time for stillness and silence.

Although outside the National Curriculum, Collective Worship should be seen as an integral part of the whole curriculum and be accorded the same status and, as such, should be planned and evaluated carefully.

Therefore Collective Worship at this school should be:

- inclusive – (activity and experience to which all can contribute and gain no matter what own particular commitment);
- curricular – (part of the whole curriculum);
- educational;
- a sense of occasion – (a special time);
- shaped to the needs of the school;

It should also contribute to RE.

Collective Worship should include:

- stories;
- readings both secular and religious;
- drama;
- prayer;
- creative silence;
- songs;
- hymns;
- music;
- artefacts;
- natural materials;
- children's dance and movement;
- media – films/slides/video.

Through its planning and presentation Collective Worship should capture children's interest and imagination. At Grassington School we hope that the children will look forward to Collective Worship.

Themes for Collective Worship

These are organised on a half-termly basis based largely on the 'Values for Life' programme developed by the Diocese of Gloucester. Themes may be amended to respond spontaneously to significant world or local events. Individual people will bring to Collective Worship their own style and this will provide a variety of approach for the children.

Cycle of Themes

Long Term Planning

Themes are arranged on a half-termly basis and take into account major festivals, the Christian Year, personal development and the ideas of the children

Weekly Planning

- Each theme will usually continue for a week.
- One day each week will be taken by a Christian visitor using dates from the Christian Calendar or an appropriate story
- Artefacts/resources must be used as often as possible.

A Sense of Occasion

There are signs stating the current theme for Collective Worship and the music used is usually chosen by the children

Teachers must be careful not to mix up announcements of a general nature in the act of Collective Worship. As it is practical to give out notices to the assembled school these should follow a period of a few seconds silence at the end of Worship or at the start. Items of a less positive nature (ie. general admonishments should be dealt with at a different time.