

ALPINGTON & BERGH APTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND V.A. SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Let Every Light Shine



Reviewed by staff: January 2019
Agreed by Governors: March 2019

Review date: January 2022

Alpington and Bergh Apton CEVA Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

School Vision and Values:

Our vision is to provide an inspiring education which every child enjoys and every parent values. We strive for our pupils to become confident, caring and successful individuals

Our aims are to...

- Provide a safe, happy and stimulating environment
- Create and develop a passion for learning
- Give pupils confidence in their individual abilities and help them achieve their full potential
- Develop the ability to respect others, their values and ideas
- Create a strong partnership with parents, the local church and community
- Promote a Christian education that is life long and enhancing
- Foster the awareness of a personal faith

Our values are:

- Faith
- Love
- Action

At Alpington & Bergh Apton CE VA Primary School we believe in the uniqueness and potential of each individual. We aim to be a safe, happy learning community which cares for each other, and the world in which we live. We aim to let every light shine.

“You are the light that gives light to the world. A city that is built on a hill cannot be hidden and people do not hide a light under a bowl. They put the light on a lampstand. Then the light shines for all people in the house. In the same way you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do. Live so that they will praise your Father in heaven.”

(International Children's Bible Matthew 5 v14 -16)

Introduction

This policy was written by staff and governors and follows advice from the Diocese. It explains the policy for collective worship at this school and how we interpret the legislation set out by the government.

Rationale for Collective Worship

Alpington & Bergh Apton CE VA Primary School is committed to providing an excellent education – both academic and social – within a Christian context for all its pupils.

School worship is central to the realisation of our school vision, providing vital

opportunities for all pupils to share their human experience and to develop their spiritual nature.

We aim collective worship to be inclusive, invitational and aspirational and is central to the life of the school. We welcome all children, whatever their family faith, if their parents wish an education that is centred on Christian values.

The legal requirements for Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Act stated that:

- all pupils must take part in a collective act of worship every day
- the act of collective worship may be as a whole school or in different age groupings
- it may happen at any time of the school day
- it has to take place on school premises (In an aided school the Governors can make arrangements for worship elsewhere on special occasions e.g. the local church. In a VC school acts of worship may take place off school premises but these should be in addition to the statutory acts of collective worship on the premises).
- the Head teacher is responsible for ensuring the legal requirements for Collective Worship are met. (In an aided or voluntary controlled school the responsibility for securing daily acts of worship lies with the governing body after consultation with the Head teacher).
- the character and content of collective worship in these schools continues to be determined by governing bodies in accordance with their Trust Deeds.
- all staff, including the Head teacher have the legal right to withdraw from the Act of Collective worship. The head teacher remains responsible for finding someone suitable to organise and lead the acts of worship. (The right to withdrawal does not extend to staff in VA schools.)
- all parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship, wholly or partially. The school's responsibility for the child's health and safety is still paramount.

The aims of Collective Worship at Alpington

We provide daily acts of collective worship which we believe help children understand some of the features of worship in a believing Christian community. These are:

praise
thanks

reflection
saying sorry

celebration
sharing

We have chosen these elements because we believe they are also important features of our everyday life in school and are therefore appropriate responses for all pupils and staff in our community.

The law also requires us to provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God as part of our collective worship. We therefore try to provide an opportunity to respond in the form of a time of quiet reflection at some point in each act of collective worship. This time may involve spoken prayers but more often a time for each pupil and adult present to be quiet and think about what they have heard; this will provide opportunity for each to worship God if they should wish to do so.

Aims

- To provide time set apart from other activities, when children can be aware of God who loves and cares for them.
- To celebrate each unique individual member of the school community made in the image of God.
- To introduce the Christian faith in an attractive and fun way so that children have a positive experience of God.
- To give children the opportunity to ask God for help and thank Him in prayer and to praise and worship Him with songs and the expressive arts.
- For children to learn about Jesus and the life He lived so they are encouraged by His example to live lives that please God, for their own and others' well-being and blessing.
- To support pupils and adults in the development of their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God.
- To give expression to, reaffirm, and practise the values of the school community.
- To provide an experience that promotes the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of pupils.
- To promote personal and shared reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of concern and value to human beings.
- To respect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.
- To celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- To work in relationship with our parish churches of St Mary's and St Peter and St Paul so that our worship is complimentary.
- To foster a respect for self and engender a concern for the needs of others.
- To provide spaces and opportunities around the school to encourage reflection and personal prayer.

Planning

Collective worship themes are planned on a two-year cycle. There are termly themes which are linked in with PSHE themes and informed by the documents 'Values for Life'/'Roots and Shoots'. Staff supplement these resources with their own. Other resource books are available in the staffroom, or material may be downloaded from relevant websites eg:

www.assemblies.org.uk,

www.barnabusinschools.org.uk/assembly

These broad themes are broken down and have a specifically Christian focus. The major Christian festivals (Easter, Christmas, Pentecost, Harvest) are at the core of the planning cycle.

A theme is introduced at the beginning of its cycle to the whole school. There is an assembly planner which highlights the key theme for the week and the main teaching points. Where possible songs are linked to the theme.

The organisation of Collective Worship at Alington

There is an act of Collective worship every day following the pattern shown below:

DAY	GROUP	TIME	LEADER
Monday	Whole School	10.05 – 10.20	Staff / Visitor
Tuesday	Whole School	10.05 – 10.20	Staff/Visitor
Wednesday	Whole School	10.05 – 10.20	Open Book - fortnightly
Thursday	Whole School Celebration CW	10.05 – 10.20	Member of SLT
Friday	Class / Key Stage	Flexible	Staff

The approach to Collective Worship at Alington

The acts of collective worship are planned to give pupils a variety of experiences to enable them to reflect on and respond to, things which we as a school community, believe are important. These experiences may include:

- the telling of appropriate stories (Biblical, moral, multi-cultural)
- drama
- dance
- poetry
- music
- mime

We believe that collective worship should be:
reflective; joyful; thankful; empathetic; peaceful; creative, thought provoking.

Children take a role in leading class assemblies themselves, with the help and support of the Collective Worship Leaders.

Children are also invited to play an active role in assemblies; helping to set up the hall; operate the IT systems, choosing and playing music, acting out roles; reading; leading singing and prayers; performing actions in songs etc.

Children lead services at the two parish churches in our community during the festivals at Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

Collective worship is an inclusive activity that builds links with the broad dimensions of the curriculum. Appropriate music, visual foci and symbols assist the creation of atmosphere. Story, drama, dance and art are important elements that engage the pupils' imagination and interest.

The theme for the half term is displayed in the main school corridor on our collective worship board and table. Pictures, photographs and captions are used to encourage the children to think and reflect on the current theme. There

will often be an interactive element to this display, where the children can record their thoughts and feelings.

We also invite visitors from the local and wider community to lead collective worship in order to develop a greater experience and understanding of the diversity and differences within the Christian faith.

Once a fortnight, on a Wednesday, the Open Book Team leads collective worship. For these sessions, Bible stories are retold in a lively and interactive way by a team of local Christians.

Celebration collective worship on a Thursday is an opportunity for the whole school to come together to celebrate achievement, whether it be social, behavioural, sporting or academic. We also celebrate children's birthdays during this time.

Families are invited to Acts of Worship at St. Mary's Church, Yelverton or at St Peter and St Paul's Bergh Apton three times a year to celebrate Harvest Festival, Christmas (Christingle service) and Easter. Parents are invited to Collective Acts of Worship in school on an occasional basis; for example during a Communion Service or a child led assembly.

Commitment to Inclusion and Equality

All children have equal access to collective worship regardless of race, age, gender or ability, including physical. Where necessary, activities will be differentiated to meet individual needs. This is particularly the case in class assemblies. We encourage all members of the school community to participate, and work closely with those parents who wish to exercise their right to withdraw.

Withdrawal

Parents may ask for their child to be totally or partially withdrawn from collective worship in accordance with the Education Act. They are asked to contact the headteacher to make arrangements. No reasons have to be given but discussion with parents over the issues concerning withdrawal are recommended in the government Circular 1/94. No pupils or staff currently withdraw.

Opportunities for Spiritual, Social, Moral and Cultural Development

Collective worship plays an important role in the promotion of all of these areas. We have incorporated the 'Values for Life' document into our collective worship planning, highlighting a number of other core values.

Parental and community involvement: citizenship and community cohesion (British Values)

An important aspect running through our collective worship themes is how to be a good citizen. Children have many opportunities to serve the local community; collecting for and visiting the local foodbank, taking part in events at the church, art exhibitions and Remembrance, the British Legion Poppy Appeal, choir singing for the local YMCA and Salvation Army, clothes collections for the Salvation Army. The School Council also holds community mornings which they run with help from parents.

Throughout the year the school and parents support a number of local, national,

and international charities. (YMCA sleepover, Shoebox Collection at Christmas, C OE Children's Society, Comic Relief and Children in Need, orphanage in Nepal, sponsoring a child with "Compassion").

Visitors: Community links

We enjoy strong links with our local churches, St Mary's and St Peter and Paul. The benefice provides a team that focuses on Bible stories ('Open the Book'). These visits link with our Collective Worship themes. We also aim to use speakers from other community organisations such as the local library service and the Gideons.

How are parents informed about Collective Worship?

This policy is highlighted in newsletters, and through other school website. Themes will also be notified to parents through Home School Values via our newsletters and on the website.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Development

The Ethos Sub Committee are responsible for monitoring this policy. Collective worship is a standing item on every Ethos Sub Committee agenda. Regular monitoring is carried out by the collective worship subject leader and governors – this consists of discussions with children and staff, as well as observations of class and school worship. Parental views are also sought through the annual questionnaire. A collective worship Observation proforma has been shared with Governors and staff (Nov 2018).

Specific development in this area forms part of the School Improvement Plan as appropriate. All Governors are invited to attend and monitor collective worship.

Training and Support

The Head teacher and collective worship subject leader have both received training in developing collective worship. Training is disseminated to staff through Inset and Staff Meetings. Further support is available from the subject leader, the Rector, and the Diocesan Board of Education.

SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools)

In VA schools collective worship will be inspected on a regular basis through a Section 48 inspection. It is the responsibility of the Governors to organise this in liaison with the Head teacher. The Diocese offers assistance and support with the arrangements.

Review

This policy will be reviewed at three-yearly intervals, or sooner as appropriate.

Reviewed by staff: January 2019

Agreed by Governors:

Review date: January 2022

.

