

Dunchurch Boughton C of E Junior School

Collective worship policy

School Aim Statement

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the church at parish and diocesan level.

The Christian Faith, and its practical expression, form a major part of the whole school ethos. The school aims to give children both knowledge and understanding of the Christian Faith while respecting and understanding other religions and cultures.

The school aims to: -

- ensure that children receive their entitlement to a broad, balanced National Curriculum, encouraging them to have high expectations in all areas of the curriculum and to reach their full potential.
- provide a secure and relaxed environment in which the children are encouraged to have a healthy lifestyle, to be tolerant and to grow in confidence and self esteem.
- ensure that pupils develop an open and enquiring mind and are encouraged to be creative, imaginative and inventive.
- work in partnership with parents and the wider community.

Policy

This policy was developed by: Andy Wardle. Head-Teacher

How: Discussion by and approval from the whole staff on 9th April 2001

Ratified by Governors on: May 2001, Feb 2007.

Review date: Feb 2008.

Purpose

Central to our understanding of worship in schools is the realisation that our pupils should learn of the need for a spiritual dimension to life – the recognition that without it a pupil's total education will be noticeably impoverished.

Whilst recognising the fact that we live in a multi-faith society we believe that it is our responsibility to reflect Christian beliefs and accept that the school can, and should, openly witness to its Christian nature.

All collective worship will be in accordance with the principles and beliefs of the Church of England.

Aims

Collective worship at Dunchurch Boughton C of E Junior School aims to provide the opportunity for spiritual and personal growth through experiences of stillness, peace, awe, mystery, reverence and belonging. It aims to develop community spirit as the school meets as one body and reflects upon its common ethos and shared values. At the same time collective worship aims to provide an atmosphere for personal reflection on spiritual issues, acknowledging, in so doing that children need to feel secure to express their own beliefs, doubts, concerns and hopes, and also develop a better understanding of themselves – developing self-confidence and self-esteem.

Relationship with the church community

As a church aided school we seek to maintain good relationships with both the worshipping community at St.Peter's Church and the churches of other local Christian denominations. Effective communication is maintained through the Foundation Governors serving both school and church, and school governors being nominated by the Parochial Church Council. A close working relationship is maintained with the Diocesan Board of Education of which the Chairman of governors is a member, and we express our involvement nationally with the Church through membership of the National Society.

Members of the clergy (most frequently the local vicar) lead school worship and the school attends parish church services each term.

Organisation

There is a daily act of worship, usually for the whole school, although one day a week is reserved for each class to have its own time of reflection. Once a year each class is asked to lead worship for the whole school.

Content

A range of activities is encouraged. It is likely that each act of collective worship will include one or more of the following:

- Introductory music to create a mood and focus attention
- The singing of hymns and songs
- The reading of a short passage from the Bible
- Hearing a talk or a story
- Opportunities for reflective silence
- The hearing of a prayer
- Audiovisual material
- Drama and role-play
- Active pupil involvement.

Careful attention to appropriateness is important, as the inclusion of any or all of the above elements do not automatically lead to worship.

The majority of weeks of the year will have a designated assembly theme to encourage consistency and continuity of approach and to lessen confusion in the minds of our pupils. Where possible visiting clergy will be asked to follow these suggestions.

A simple proforma has been adopted to enable accurate records to be kept of all acts of worship including content, hymns and prayers used. These will be retained by the Head teacher and are available for parents and governors to view on request.

Withdrawal rights

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from attendance at collective worship.

Should such a request be made the Head teacher will invite the parent(s) to discuss the matter in order that necessary arrangements can be made, and to ensure that all the practical implications of withdrawal are appreciated.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.