

ROYSTON ST JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



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1. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Royston St John Baptist Church of England Primary School is a “place where pupils experience worship as a quality activity, it is important to the life of the school and its religious character”. We see our Church School as an important part of the work and mission of our parish – contributing to the life of the local worshipping community.

Christian Worship is offering praise, thanksgiving and adoration to God. Our Christian Worship contains a rich variety of approach and expression, enabling us to come together to proclaim and share our beliefs and values.

1. In our Collective Worship we aim:-

- * to foster a sense of identity, community and self esteem
- * to hopefully provide a launching pad for what goes on elsewhere in school
- * to provide opportunities to celebrate achievements and special occasions
- * to give children the opportunity to use their gifts and talents in our acts of Collective Worship
- * to provide opportunities for response and reflection.

2. Collective Worship should be a ‘special time’ providing opportunities for individual response and reflection in an atmosphere conducive to Worship. We endeavour to create this by:-

- * playing a piece of music while pupils enter and leave the hall.
- * lighting a candle to represent the presence of Christ
- * encouraging children to enter the hall/Church in the ‘right frame of mind’ entering the hall, quietly.

3. Spirituality is at the heart of religion and must be fostered across the curriculum and in all acts of Worship. The content of school worship aims to evoke such responses as:-

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| amazement | awe |
| wonder | thankfulness |
| sadness | peace |
| delight | challenge |
| excitement | togetherness |
| sharing | respect |
| compassion | justice |

4. The content of our school worship focuses on key Christian beliefs. At the core of these beliefs is the understanding of God as Trinity. Christians describe God as three persons and our aim is to provide the opportunity for the children to explore in worship:-

- * belief in God as Creator
- * belief in Jesus as the son of God – the supreme expression of God’s love

- * belief in the Holy Spirit as God in action changing lives, helping us to follow the teachings of Jesus.

Our pupils are also provided with opportunities to:-

- * use the Bible and reflect on its importance to Christians
- * participate in a range of activities – story, music, dance, drama, poetry, art and prayer
- * experience the quality of purposeful silence and quiet contemplation
- * develop the ability to listen
- * develop the ability to be still.

Learning Expectations and Intended Outcomes

Education, celebration, praise and hope are essential features of our worship at Royston St John Baptist CE Primary School. We aim to make children aware of what it means to be a caring community, serving God, each other and our environment. In doing so we hope to create an atmosphere in which pupils are invited rather than compelled to explore issues for themselves, reflect upon and learn from their own and others experiences, develop sensitivity and a sense of wonder, awe and mystery for the world of which they are a part.

Inclusion

The staff and governors at Royston St John Baptist CE Primary School are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive benefit from collective worship, whatever her or his ability. Every attempt is made, therefore, that planning for school worship should seek to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests: music, drama, visual stimuli (artefacts, objects, paintings/ drawings), stories and story telling.

Equal Opportunities

In sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives, along with our common concerns, responsibilities and values, we affirm the equality of each individual, regardless of gender, creed (or lack of one), ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

2. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

1. The character and worship in our school is determined by our trust deed which states that it should be “consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England”.
2. There must be a daily act of worship for all pupils
 - it can take place at anytime
 - it can be whole school, Key stage or class

Please see Appendix 1 – Usual Pattern of Collective Worship.

3. As stated in the School Prospectus, parents have the right to withdraw their children. Teachers too retain the right to withdraw. However, teachers in our school are expected to ‘respect the character of the foundation’ and take part in school worship.
4. Arrangements for Collective Worship lies with the Headteacher in consultation with the Governing Body.
5. The act of Worship is not designated curriculum time – it must be distinctive and identifiable – to meet legal requirements.
6. Collective Worship and Assembly are distinct activities although they may take place in the same gathering, the difference between them being made clear by the extinguishing of the candle.

Complaints

Complaints concerning collective worship should follow the following procedure as stated in the School Prospectus:-

1. Informal discussion with the Headteacher
2. Appealing formally to the Chairperson of the Governing Body in writing, who will refer the matter to the appropriate Governors committee
3. Appealing to the Bishop of Leeds via the Diocesan Board of Education.

3. CONTENT AND DELIVERY

Half termly themes have been established to provide guidance; they include a balanced framework of Bible stories, Christian Festivals, God's creation, Saints and Special People, Living a Christian life (e.g. caring, commitment, forgiveness etc). and other World Faiths which reflect the diversity of the multi faith , multi cultural country in which we live.

However, this is only a guide – other events e.g. a natural disaster, a national initiative such as anti-bullying week may take precedence.

Please see the collective worship folder for more information.

Delivery

All members of the present teaching staff lead Acts of Collective Worship, as 'class presentations' or on their own regularly throughout the year. Parents /Governors are invited to class lead acts of Collective Worship.

The Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher lead Collective Worship at least once a week. (Please see Appendix 1)

During our Interregnum, a Parish Priest leads Collective Worship and school masses whenever possible.

An Act of Collective Worship is an excellent forum for a guest speaker to give a general talk on a wide range of issues e.g. Church of England Children's Society; R.N.I.B., N.S.P.C.C., Community Police Officer etc.

Worship Content

The Anglican tradition is nurtured through the use of appropriate liturgy and prayers. Acts of worship follow the festivals of the Church's year, and special celebratory Eucharists also take place.

During collective worship pupils are introduced to the outward expression of prayer. They are invited to join in, listen or think carefully. Prayer is a complex activity – including reflection, response and communication. School worship can help make pupils think more deeply about everyday experiences. It provides the opportunity to respond in thoughts, feelings and emotions through praise, thanksgiving, confession and intercession. It encourages pupils to communicate concerns and ideas with each other and with God. The central prayer used in all collective acts of worship is the Lord's Prayer. We approach prayer as a time for listening and talking to God and encourage children to say prayers in a worshipful manner.

Our collective act of worship benefits from singing together – "hymns and songs which praise God, express ideas about human qualities or relationships with the natural world God has created". Our school has developed a wide repertoire of hymns (please see

Appendix 2) encompassing seasons of the Church's year, and hymns appropriate for Communion. These are regularly reviewed and updated.

Collective Worship also takes place in class twice daily. All members of staff are to respect this and take part during these times (unless withdrawn). This includes saying a prayer at lunch time and home time. Children are also provided with opportunities in the classroom to say their own prayers and reflect on events around the world.

4. Monitoring and evaluation

To assist review, provision and future planning, a simple recording sheet has been developed. This is completed by each worship leader (please see appendix 3). At the end of the academic year the list is typed up and kept in The Collective Worship file.

Evaluation

The impact of Collective Worship on the knowledge and understanding of pupils is evaluated in a variety of ways, the majority of which are informal. However, some acts of worship lend themselves to specific evaluative 'tasks', which should be manageable and as little a burden as possible. Evaluation should be carried out by as many people as realistically possible – Head Teacher, subject leader, class teacher, Parish Priest, school council, teaching assistants, governors

- Immediate feed back – question and answers during worship.
- Writing / Art follow up – especially after Mass, some 'special days', and if it is very different to the usual pattern
- In R.E.(if applicable)
- As a focus for Circle Time or PHSE.

Aspects for Evaluation and Suitable Questions about the Act of Worship

Place where worship takes place

Where in school do you like to sing hymns / say prayers? Why?

Do you like how we sit in collective worship? How would you change it? Can we improve it? How?

Visual focus

What is on the worship table? How do you know it is Christian? Is there anything we should add? Draw what you think should be on the table during worship.

Atmosphere

How should we behave during worship? Why? Does everyone come in sensibly? Why is it good to be quiet when we come in to the hall for worship? Describe how we should enter the hall / act out how we should enter the hall.

Music

What music has been played in worship? Do you prefer some music rather than others? Which? Should there more / less music? Why?

Pupil involvement

Do you like to be involved in leading worship? Why? Do you like to see other children leading worship? What do you like to do when you are leading worship?

Do you enjoy talks/ singing / acting / praying / reading / showing work / receiving awards / ...?

What else would you like to do / see happening in worship? Write a prayer to be said in worship / plan a theme for an act of worship.

Staff involvement

Do you prefer your teacher to be at the worship? Why? Do you like to see other teachers / adults leading the worship? Why?

The evaluation of worship will be the focus of one staff meeting each year.

5. MASS

The Mass (Our School Eucharist) is the heart of our Christian faith. It is celebrated by the whole school on a regular basis throughout the school year usually in our Parish Church – occasionally in school. Parents are invited to all school services.

“The word Eucharist means thank you. When Christian people celebrate the Eucharist they are saying thank you to God for the creation of the universe and its redemption in Jesus Christ.”

“The Eucharist is given by Jesus as a way of understanding his death as a sacrifice; a way of celebrating his death and resurrection and a way of receiving the fruits of that victory. Christians therefore understand the Eucharist to be a life-giving encounter with Jesus Christ.”

“Through our participation in the Eucharist we encounter and receive the life of Jesus.”

- **We can hear him speak about how we should live our lives when we read the Bible**
- **We can feel his love in other people**
- **We are fed by him when we receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.**

We aim to include all children in the Eucharist; those who do not receive Holy Communion receive a blessing from the Parish Priest.

In practical terms children are involved in preparing and leading the worship:

- a) present Gospel stories – reading, acting, singing, music, dance...
- b) write and read Bidding prayers
- c) take on the traditional roll of sides person:-
 - i) distributing hymn books
 - ii) taking up the Offertory
 - iii) collecting monetary gifts
- d) design altar frontals
- e) make banners
- f) prepare and lead the music.

The Parish Priest are assisted at the Altar by a team of Servers from our upper KS2 classes.

The pattern, which varies slightly from year to year due to school holidays, is as follows:-

HARVEST	-	Week day before the first Sunday in October
ADVENT	-	1 st December or the nearest possible date
CHRISTMAS	-	Date as late as possible
EPIPHANY	-	6 TH JANUARY OR AS NEAR AS POSSIBLE
ASH WEDNESDAY	-	
STATIONS OF THE CROSS	-	Each Tuesday throughout Lent – KS1/KS2
ASCENSION	-	Varies
ST JOHN BAPTIST	-	24 th June or the nearest possible date
LEAVERS	-	Last week of the school year

Proceeds from collections are sent to a variety of charities. We see this as a vitally important expression of our Christian faith. In recent years we have supported the following charities:-

- i) Church of England Children's Society
- ii) Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital
- iii) Barnsley Women's Refuge
- iv) Children in Need
- v) NSPCC

6. CO-ORDINATION

The role of the Collective Worship Co-ordinator involves:-

- * taking the lead (supported as appropriate by the Headteacher) in Policy development, review and implementation
- * encouraging and supporting colleagues and those involved in school worship
- * encouraging the regular completion of the Collective Worship record sheet
- * liaising with Parish Priest and school staff – presentation of Masses
- * encouraging the regular involvement of pupils in collective acts of worship. e.g. setting out chairs/benches
- * Worship Team of Learning Council participate in worship, e.g lighting/extinguishing the candle, leading worship and prayer
- * attending and initiating Inset
- * informing the Headteacher of purchasing requests, within budgetary limits following full consultation with all staff and organising central resources, maintaining an up-to-date list of these.

The role of the Headteacher involves:-

- * working alongside the co-ordinator in encouraging and supporting colleagues involved in school worship
- * assisting the co-ordinator to maintain regular completion of the record sheet
- * ensuring appropriate funding within budgetary limits
- * briefing and liaising with visitors invited to join (lead) school worship
- * enabling a regular review of the Collective Worship Policy.

This policy has been reviewed following a process of consultation with all staff, Governors and the Parish Priest.

7. APPENDICES

1. Pattern of Collective Worship
2. A Selection of Hymns that pupils know well
3. Collective Worship Feedback sheet
4. Resource Sources

Appendix 1

The usual pattern of Collective Worship is as follows:

Monday	Whole School Head Teacher or Assistant Head Teacher	Collective Act of worship including praise awards
Tuesday	Whole School Religious Leader or Head Teacher	Collective Act of worship
Wednesday	Whole School Teacher (Rota)	Collective Act of worship
Thursday	Whole School Teacher (rota)	Collective Act of worship and hymn practice
Friday	Whole school Class led, visitor e.g. NSPCC or Head Teacher	Collective Act of worship

This pattern offers a wide variety of leadership, different age groupings, class contributions and an opportunity for pupils to receive reward certificates. Collective Acts of Worship leaders are at liberty to use materials from a range of sources.

Themes have been organised to support leaders with different topics to cover across the academic year.

A SELECTION OF WELL KNOWN HYMNS

A new commandment
At the name of Jesus
Be still for the presence of the Lord
Father we adore you
From heaven you came
Give me joy in my heart
I the Lord of sea and sky
If I were a butterfly
Jubilate, everybody
Morning has broken
Seek ye first
You are the vine
We plough the fields
Make me a channel
O when the saints
Shine Jesus shine
Walk in the light
Away in a manger
Come and join the celebration
Good news, good news
Hark the Herald
O come all ye faithful
O little own
Once in royal
We three kings
Walk with me o my Lord

Collective worship/ Assembly evaluation

Date:

Person leading:

Was there something to focus on in the assembly? Like a candle?

Yes

No

How did you take part in worship? Did you sing a song? Did you have time to reflect?

What did you learn in the assembly?

Did you learn anything that will help you to become a better Christian/ person?

Did you say a prayer?

Yes

No

Resource Sources

<http://www.collectiveworship.com/> - Information on the role of collective worship in school and ideas on collective worships recently led around the country.

<http://www.assemblies.org.uk/> Updated weekly to fit in with events and seasons. A selection of materials, prayers and reflections available.

<http://www.teachersdozen.co.uk/> Collective worship presentations with videos and other resources.

<http://www.imaginer.co.uk/> A multi-sensory approach to collective worship, especially for KS1.

<http://inspirationalstories.com/> multi-faith stories that can be used to link ideas with Christianity.

www.worshipworkshop.org.uk/songs-and-hymns/hymns A selection of hymns used for collective worship.

RE Today – Picturing Christianity – A folder of pictures which can be used as a stimulus at the beginning of collective worship.

A range of books are also available in the school library area.

