



Walsh Memorial CE Infant School



The School aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

Policy Document – Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place in accordance with the Foundation Deed of the School and the expectation that all funded schools in England must provide a daily act of collective worship for all their pupils.

Why we have Collective Worship?

Through a daily act of collective worship, at Walsh Memorial CE Infant School we aim to reflect the traditions of the Church of England by providing children with an opportunity to come together in worship. It aims to give children and school staff the opportunity to:-

- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

We are a Church of England School and acts of collective worship are known by the children as “assembly.” Our main emphasis is Christian introducing and exploring:

- the traditions of Christian belief
- stories from the Bible
- stories Jesus told
- Christian celebrations
- rituals of birth, death and marriage

Combined with this Christian emphasis our collective worship also reflect:

- * moral issues as outlined in the PSHE and Zippy Programme
- * the celebration of individual birthdays
- * the importance of individual cares and concerns
- * the importance of demonstrating care and concern for others
- * the importance of working in an atmosphere of co-operation
- * issues of appropriate and inappropriate behaviour

- * the need to express feelings and emotions appropriately and to appreciate the feelings and emotions of others
- * the importance of friendship
- * the importance of honesty and of telling the truth
- * the importance of valuing other people, their property and possessions
- * individual and corporate responsibility for our environment
- * a need to understand the importance of family life and the role of individuals in the family
- * the necessity of developing the skills for living and working amicably with others
- * celebrations from other faiths
- * stories from other faiths and cultures

Organisation

Collective Worship are usually held in the hall but on occasions classrooms and out outside spiritual area maybe utilised for this purpose.

Collective Worship themes are values based and designed wherever possible to enhance the topic focus within the school whilst also exploring seasonal changes and annual celebrations such as Christmas, Easter and Harvest.

Four year old pupils are introduced to Collective Worship gradually in their own classes at first and when appropriate attend the whole school Act of Collective Worship.

Planning

Themes are selected in consultation with colleagues, whilst the Head Teacher may make suggestions for the assembly formats the responsibility for presentation lies with the member of staff taking the assembly. From this arrangement we believe that the children gain experiences that are varied, meaningful and fully utilise the expertise of the teaching staff.

Themes are explored through:

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|---------------|----------------|---------|
| * stories | * artifacts | * video |
| * photographs | * discussion | |
| * song | * works of art | |
| * posters | * role play | |
| * poetry | * music | |
| * drama | * puppets | |
| * sharing | * symbols | |

Assessment and Record Keeping

Assessment is carried out throughout the year by children, staff, governors and parents. A detailed questionnaire is given to children in Year Two to assess their Collective Worship experience throughout their time at our school.

Records are kept of previous collective worships. Teachers inform the Headteacher if a collective worship is unsuccessful or not suitable for the children and it is removed from the planning.

Visitors

As a school we welcome and encourage regular visits from ministers working in all the local churches. Through liaison prior to their visits they have demonstrated a willingness to work with our selected themes and consult with us to provide the children with teaching appropriate to their age and understanding.

As a school we feel that our times of collective worship provide children with opportunities to:

- * participate as they feel able
- * question
- * quietly reflect
- * empathise
- * share language and forms of worship as an educational experience
- * celebrate what is good and worthwhile
- * be consistently presented with a coherent and valid set of values and beliefs that represent the community of the school
- * share in experiences that help explore the range of human feeling and encourage emotional growth

We recognise that some parents may not wish their children to participate in some, or all of the corporate worship and these children may be exempt after consultation with the Head Teacher.

The majority of children enjoy these times together and are able to build on them during R.E. activities in class. Recognising the importance of collective worship in the development of the whole child and its perspective of the world it inhabits, the Headteacher will endeavour to monitor and evaluate these times together to ensure they provide both an enjoyable and meaningful part of the school day.

Committee: Children and Learning

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