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Arreton CE (Aided) Primary School

Collective Worship Policy (3.07)

Signed:

Headteacher

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Chair of Governors

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Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. – Psalm 100:2

Introduction

This policy is an agreed statement of the values and aims of collective worship at Arreton St George's C E primary school. It has been prepared by the governors and head teacher with assistance from other staff and diocesan advisers. Collective worship is valued as a central aspect of the life of our church school, through which children grow spiritually, emotionally, morally and culturally.

Legal status of collective worship

In a Church of England school, worship must be in line with the trust deed of the school and will reflect the traditions of the Church of England, i.e. the Anglican tradition.

The right of withdrawal

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship. We ask for this to be discussed with the head teacher so the exact nature of worship is understood by the parents before this becomes a permanent arrangement; alternative activities can be provided for worship time in consultation with parents. Please be aware that this does not mean that the children will be exempt from the Christian ethos of the setting which underpins our teaching, learning and relationships.

Worship in our school should:

As worship:

- Be at a level to enable children and adults to explore their own understanding of God within a Christian framework
- Explain and promote the core Christian values and the school values of friendship, perseverance and honesty
- Have Integrity as acts of Anglican worship whilst being *invitational, inclusive* and *inspirational*
- Be based on Biblical text or themes
- Be central in importance to the life of our school community, which is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world
- Mark the seasons and festivals of the Christian year
- Develop understanding of Anglican traditions such as the lighting of a candle or use of a cross

For people:

- Develop personal spirituality within the setting community through a range of experiences including individual and collective prayer
- Celebrate the God given gifts and talents of individuals
- Make a significant contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of members of the school community
- Consider the beliefs and values of others, especially those within the setting community

To comply:

- Be clearly outlined in the setting prospectus and documentation
- Involve children and adults in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship e.g. through acting our stories
- Be monitored and evaluated by foundation governors for the impact it has on the school community

Aims of our worship

- To promote the joy of worship as engaging, inspiring and transformative
- To develop spirituality, morality, social and cultural values
- Sometimes to provide a peaceful environment enabling stillness, reflection and prayer
- Sometimes to be noisy and joyous with singing, music, dance, drama etc.
- To give an opportunity to experience faith as revealed in the Bible
- To understand, celebrate and develop children's knowledge of Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and religious festivals in the Anglican Church's year
- Facilitate a deeper understanding of the Christian story narrative, from creation to the present day
- To appreciate that people, cultures and beliefs differ and to demonstrate respect, tolerance and generosity towards them
- To develop young children's sense of self-worth and to provide opportunities to celebrate achievements.
- To develop a caring attitude to others and a sense of community and loyalty
- To provide opportunities for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate collective worship
- To invite clergy of the parish and other appropriate planned visitors to lead worship



How we achieve our aims

We aim to promote collective acts of worship, which are rich, meaningful experiences that are appropriate and significant to the pupil's needs, age, development and interest by:

- Creating a sense of occasion and reverence
- Providing opportunities that develop pupil's awareness of what is beautiful, good, wonderful, awesome and puzzling in life experience
- Arranging worship at different places when possible, different times with different people and groupings, involving all members of the setting community at some time
- Planning and linking themes which focus on a particular idea/concept, i.e. the liturgical year; festivals and celebrations, our Christian values
- Using a wide range of resources, artefacts (from religious and secular sources), music, art, drama and external visitors to engage children's interest
- Encouraging children to participate and experience different styles of worship, e.g. prayer, praise, silence, rituals, and become familiar with the language of worship, Biblical readings and liturgy
- Providing opportunities for children and adults to reflect, contemplate their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs
- Using the centrality of prayer – personal silent prayer, personal shared prayers, collective prayers, writing prayers; all prayer will be invitational
- Involving young children and members of the wider community to participate in collective worship and activities within the parish
- Presenting and creating displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas, thoughts and questions

Central attributes of an act of worship

At Arreton St. George's we will endeavour to fulfil the following 'central attributes' of worship:

Gathering Making worship a special time of the day

Engaging Making the theme or value interesting and stimulating to all participating in the worship

Responding Giving time and opportunity for individual, group reflection and thought, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways

Sending Summarising the worship in a meaningful short message used to create an opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas covered and to conclude the worship



We plan collective worship carefully with each half term focusing on one central Christian Value , developing understanding of that value through a progression of planned worships, with linked hymns and songs.

The centrality of prayer

During the collective worship there will be a time for response and reflection, to ponder on a question, statement or thought. This may also be reflected in an invitational prayer, offered spontaneously by a child or adult, read out or recited. Through worship we hope that :

- Children understand the nature and purpose of prayer
- Children understand the part prayer may play in their lives and the life of the setting community
- Prayer contributes to the spiritual development of individuals and the whole setting community
- There will also be appropriate opportunities for prayer and other worship activities, including reflection, outside of collective worship



At Arreton St George's we have 5 prayers that we hope are meaningful to the children and will help them develop their own prayer bank. These are: The Lord's Prayer, the Candle Prayer, The Rainbow prayer, the Irish Blessing and The Grace. To develop an understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God the children have 3 coloured worship candles, one to represent each form of God – Blue for God the Father, Green for Jesus the Son of God and Red for the Holy Spirit.

Each of our classrooms has their own worship area, which can be a space for the children to reflect and pray. The worship area will contain a copy of these prayers and others, a bible and other books linked to worship. It will also be a space for the children to write and keep their own prayers and spiritual resources e.g. a cross, candles, beads and other appropriate items for their class.

Organisation

Collective worship is an integral part of each day and to provide continuity we have a worship timetable for the week. In addition to these worships, each half term the school and children plan a worship at Arreton St George's Church in conjunction with the Vicar. These worships link into events in the Christian calendar and Christian festivals. Classes have the opportunity to plan and deliver a worship to the school and their parents.

Monday	Whole School Worship to start the week
Tuesday	Value led worship
Wednesday	Singing Worship
Thursday	Value led Worship
Friday	Celebration Worship

Resources

To support planning and delivery of worship the school has Roots and Fruits 1 and 2 and many other worship resources stored on the school server under assemblies, there will be a file of resources available for the value every half term. For younger children the school has Rev Freddie Fisher and Puddles the kitten books and puppet resources to bring them to life.

Communication

The school will communicate with parents our collective worship themes via newsletters and calendars.

Parental involvement

Parents are actively encouraged to participate in collective acts of worship when possible.

Roles and Responsibilities

The RE Subject Lead will oversee the development and planning of Collective Worship in school and support other staff to provide high quality worship experiences. T

he vicar of Arreton St George's, is a regular visitor and encourages and celebrates worship with the school community.

The Foundation Governors have a particular duty to oversee the Anglican nature of the school and this involves monitoring collective worship. To support the school's self-evaluation children and staff will also be involved in the monitoring of collective acts of worship, all who deliver worship will be observed and all leaders are asked to continuously evaluate in order to develop and improve practise.

Appropriate training and development opportunities are sought to ensure staff and Governors feel confident in their roles.

Review

This policy should be reviewed each school year to reflect changes in the school and diocese where appropriate.

APPENDIX 1 – SIAMS Grade Descriptors for Collective Worship

Strand 6: The Impact of Collective Worship

In a Church school collective worship should be inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

Living up to:

Indicates that the school's vision and practice are effectively enabling pupils and adults to flourish in line with its Christian foundation.

Not fully living up to:

Suggests that there are areas where the school's vision and practice need to be strengthened to fully realize its Christian foundation.

Key Areas of Focus in SIAMS Inspections:

Vision and Leadership: How effectively the school's Christian vision is established and promoted by leadership at all levels.

Enabling Flourishing: How the vision enables pupils and adults to flourish, both spiritually and in their overall development.

Curriculum: How the curriculum reflects the school's vision and provides opportunities for learning and growth.

Collective Worship: How collective worship enables all to flourish spiritually.

Christian Ethos: How the school's Christian vision creates a positive and inclusive culture.

Religious Education: How effective the RE curriculum is in supporting pupils' understanding of Christianity and other religions.

APPENDIX 2 – 1a Collective worship observation form

Leader: _____ Observer: _____

Worship Theme: _____ Time Allocation: _____

Collective worship in Church of England Settings should at its simplest create a time and space where we can come closer to God and God can come closer to us.

CRITERIA	ASPECT	COMMENT
Central Attribute 1 Gathering	Is there a real sense of a very special time in the day? Immediate impact, relevant, welcoming, stimulates interest or dull, uninteresting, lacks focus.	
Central attribute 2 Engaging	Does the worship leader capture the attention of the children and staff so they become actively engaged in the content? Excellent - well expressed, stimulating or poor communicator Convincing, enthusiastic, warm or lack of rapport.	
Central attribute 3 Responding	Does the leader allow for a response from the children and adults – whether active or passive, noisy or quiet?	
Central attribute 4 Sending	Does the leader send us out with a clear “thought for the day” something that changes our behaviour in some way? Clear summary, learners given opportunity to reflect or unclear what the message was.	
In addition		
Content	Clear Christian / Biblical content and teaching. Woolly, lack of structure, largely secular.	
Summary		

APPENDIX 2 – 1a Observation form pointers for consideration - NB not a check list.

Collective worship in Church of England	Music (entry/exit)	appropriate / random, linked to theme, creates atmosphere, delivers a message
	Welcome	whether greetings exchanged and introduction made
	Atmosphere	extent to which act of worship is portrayed as special and important
Engaging	Focus	table, cloth, Bible, cross, candle, artefacts ICT / Visual / drama provides appropriate, linked relevant visual/factual information
	Awe and Wonder	sense given of marvel of world / creation
	Conviction	extent to which message is clear and compelling or words lack power and appear as paying lip service
Responding	Participation	extent to which learners involved in responding, partner talk, opportunities for some to participate directly
	Singing	whether there was appropriate hymn / song, quality, enthusiasm of participation
	Reflection	learners given time to pause and reflect
	Prayers	extent to which prayers are appropriate and learner friendly, whether learners are invited to respond
Sending	Dismissal	whether the person takes charge, smiles, engages with some learners, says 'thank you'
Other aspects	Distinctively Anglican	clear reference is made to the Bible and Anglican Christian teaching and belief e.g. the Trinity - God, Jesus and Holy Spirit
	Inclusive	the worship reflects the multi faith / cultural nature of the world and feels inclusive to those of other and no faith
	Dynamism & Theatricality	was it a performance rather than an act of worship
	Open or Closed	does the leader give room for the children to build their own meanings / connections / links or are they told what to think?
	Age Appropriateness	are the language, concepts, ideas appropriate? Is it meaningful for the youngest yet appropriate for the oldest?

