



The Queen's Church of England Primary School

Encouraging every child to reach their full potential, nurtured and supported in a Christian community which lives by the values of Love, Compassion and Respect.

THE QUEEN'S SCHOOL Collective Worship Policy

Agreed by: The Queen's School Senior Leadership Team
Date: Jan 2016
Review Cycle: 3 Years
Next Review: Jan 2019

All the Queen's School policies should be read in conjunction with the Equality Policy.

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The Queen's Church of England Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY – MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission statement forms a central place within our school and specifically makes reference to our school belonging to a Christian community. As a Church of England Voluntary Aided School our worship reflects the Anglican tradition, but is conducted within an educational context in which inclusion of the whole community is a key focus.

Encouraging every child to reach their full potential, nurtured and supported in a Christian community that lives by the values of Love, Compassion and Respect.

Our Religious Education Policy is agreed by governors and is carried out in accordance to our school's Founding Trust Deed and its Ethos Statement.

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Aims

Our aims are to enable the whole school community to:

- express praise and thanksgiving through worship of God
- reflect on the attributes of God
- reflect on the teachings of Christ
- affirm Christian values and attitudes
- share each other's joys and challenges

- celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- foster respect and unity
- deepen spiritual awareness

Collective Worship provides a central meeting point for the whole school community to focus on and reaffirm those distinctive and yet common values that are considered of extreme worth and importance. Values such as care, commitment, courage, forgiveness, friendship, loyalty, responsibility, sacrifice and self-worth are central to the Christian Faith, as well as being common to many other world faiths and general human values. We celebrate values within our Acts of Worship.

Collective Worship gives us opportunities to deepen our spiritual understanding. It provides us with opportunities for reflection on issues of supreme importance and worth. It allows children to approach the 'threshold of worship' and through quiet reflection, as well as lively celebration to develop an understanding of worship within the Christian community and to reflect and celebrate alongside people of other faiths.

It allows children and adults the opportunity to enter worship, as well as the opportunity to be observers of that worship if they so wish.

Our community at this school is diverse and our Collective Worship aims to be inclusive and respectful of individual beliefs. Other faiths are mentioned in context and links are made to common shared themes, for example, Hanukkah and Christmas with 'the giving of gifts' and cultural festivals such as Chinese New Year with 'reconciliation and peace'.

Prayer ambassadors are appointed for each class for the duration of the academic year. They are responsible for setting up for collective worship and maintaining prayer areas within their classroom and around the school. A Prayer Ambassador at The Queen's C of E Primary School is someone who represents the Christian ethos of our school. These ambassadors conduct themselves by demonstrating our school values, of love, compassion and respect, consistently in their learning and behaviour. Duties of the Prayer Ambassadors are set out in the Job Description, which is signed by themselves, the headteacher and the Vicar (see appendix 3).

Contribution to the Anglican Tradition

Pupils Spiritual Development

We provide opportunities for prayer and reflection in each act of Collective Worship. Within class, we say graces before lunchtime and prayers at the end of the day. We also make prayers a focus of interactive displays at the front entrance and outside on our prayer tree.

Each class has a prayer area. This is a special place where a candle and a bible are displayed and includes examples of prayers the children have written and prayer boxes. It is also an area where links are made with the SEAL curriculum, e.g., a worry box or examples of work relating to SEAL themes, e.g., being a good friend.

Our vicars lead an after-school club during the year for pupils from Year 4 and above to prepare for admission to Holy Communion.

The Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL)

Social Development: Collective worship provides us with opportunities to gather together with others for a common purpose, share times of joy and sadness with others and learn the importance of responsible behaviour.

Moral Development: Collective worship provides us with opportunities to reflect on matters concerning right and wrong, hear and respond to situations where goodness and right are exemplified and learn about Christian teachings on right and wrong.

Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Education (SMSC)

A programme of outside speakers is arranged for each term, for example, a local charity worker or community police officer. We make links with other schools in different countries, for example Nyamonge School in Kisumu city, Kenya. We make links with charity events in the local community and national charity events, such as Comic Relief.

Each year, individual classes or year groups present an assembly on a theme of their choice. Themes include subject areas, cross-curricular topics and promotion of charity work. Children are encouraged to share their own cultural and faith experiences with other children in class or as part of collective worship.

Cultural Development: Collective worship provides us with opportunities to hear and respond to music and stories from a range of times, places and cultures, reflect on ideas concerning the concept of beauty, especially through the wide use of the arts and to appreciate the range of talents and gifts found within the school community and beyond.

Intellectual Development: Collective worship provides opportunities for developing thinking through questioning and engagement, have ideas concerning values confirmed or challenged, and consider the power of words and other forms of communication.

Please see Appendix 1 for more details on Church visits and Weekly plans for Collective Worship.

The Programme of Themes

The Christian Ethos Co-ordinator is responsible for drawing up themes of collective worship on a termly basis in consultation with the local clergy, SLT and the RE Coordinator.

Each term, there is an overall theme, such as Heroes and Villains of the Old Testament, but included within that are the Christian festivals and seasons of the liturgical year. Festivals of other world faiths are referred to when relevant.

Content

We encourage a variety of methods to deliver collective worship including the following:

- Drama/role play
- Artefacts, e.g., candles, advent wreaths, Easter Gardens
- Music from a variety of times, cultures
- Pictures from a variety of times, cultures
- Words
- Pupil involvement as much as possible
- Bible Stories read from different translations of the bible
- Silence for personal reflection and response

The Elements of Collective Worship

Entry: Teachers will escort children into collective worship quietly and calmly. It is the school's expectation that children will sit quietly and wait for the worship to begin, listening to music and looking at appropriate stimuli.

Introduction: The leader of the Collective Worship will introduce the theme of the worship and relate it to the overall weekly theme.

Music: There will usually be an opportunity for the children to sing an appropriate song/hymn.

Activity: The worship will contain a story or activity, which develops the theme.

Response: There will usually be an opportunity for prayer or reflection, which the children will be invited to join in.

Leaving: Children will be asked to leave the worship quietly by their teachers.

Resources

The Christian Ethos Co-ordinator currently has responsibility for the RE budget and the resources. Priorities for spending are included in the annual subject action plans.

Special Occasions

Our school celebrates Harvest, Christmas, Candlemass, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Easter, and Ascension Day. We have a termly Eucharist Service. Parents and Carers are invited to join the collective worship for Christmas. For other services, Year 3 lead Harvest, therefore Year 3 parents are invited to join the worship. Similarly Year 5 for the Passiontide performances and Year 6 parents for the Leavers' Service.

Guidance for Visitors

There is an induction process for new staff to the school. Each adult on the school site who is working with children will be Disclosure Barring Service checked in line with current Government guidelines.

CPD

All staff have entitlement to receive Continuing Professional Development. This will run in accordance with Performance Management procedures and with the school's CPD Policy. CPD may include visiting other members of staff as models of good practice (within school and across other schools), courses to develop skills, etc.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The themes are displayed in the staffroom and included in the weekly notes. Leaders are required to keep a record of assemblies taken and to add notes to the files on the Staff Server.

The Headteacher, SLT, RE Coordinator and local clergy are involved in regularly reviewing and developing collective worship. Review of Collective Worship is part of the work of the Kairos sub group.

Our methods for evaluation are annual pupil questionnaires and bi-annual staff questionnaires. Questions about collective worship and Christian ethos are included in the annual parent questionnaires. This data is then reviewed at SLT and Governor Meetings and used to inform future planning, and to feed into the school's SIAMS self-evaluation document.

Inclusion

Our worship is planned and led so that all pupils have equal opportunity to take part in worship and to benefit from that experience. A variety of Christian songs and translations of the bible are used from the range of Christian traditions represented in the school. A variety of multicultural material is also drawn upon encouraging engagement, tolerance and understanding.

For children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship, the Inclusion Coordinator will provide suitable provision and tasks.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship as identified in the Education Act 1944 and in subsequent legislation. The Queen's C of E Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School where Christian values and principles underpin the whole curriculum and the experience of daily worship by the whole school community is an important part of school life. In order to preserve the distinctiveness of this church school community, we encourage everyone to be involved in the religious education and collective worship. Parents who have concerns about this should discuss them with the Chair of Governors or the Headteacher before their children are admitted to the school.

Appendix 1:

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT LOCAL PARISHES IN KEW and SOUTHWARK

- KS2 visit our local church, St Anne's for services at least once a term.
- KS2 go to St Anne's church for Christmas, Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day services. There is always a special service for Year 6 Leavers' in July.
- KS1 go to St Anne's church for Ascension Day.
- Special services are held at school for other festivals, such as Harvest and a Passiontide drama for Good Friday and Easter.
- Once a term, the vicars lead a Eucharist service at school for KS2.
- Each week, our vicars Father Nigel Worn and Father Peter Hart lead worship at the school.
- Anglican prayers are said in our services. The vicars lead the services using a liturgy that helps the children join in with the Anglican responses for the Eucharist Service.

Appendix 2:
LEADERSHIP AND WEEKLY PATTERN

Monday: Headteacher Collective Worship

Celebrates Christian values. Local, national and community events discussed when relevant. Links made to the SEAL curriculum. Safety issues covered and include the work of the Junior Safety Officers. Children lead the prayers using classroom prayer boxes.

Tuesday: Singing Worship

Both key stages practise music relevant to the theme for the next day. Prayers are included. Songs words are discussed and explained.

Wednesday: Vicar Collective Worships in Key Stages

Our two local vicars take it in turns with EYFS and KS1, and KS2. Bible stories are discussed or acted out. Music is sung that relates to the themes. Children contribute to the worship by taking part in two bands, saying prayers, listening and talking about the bible stories.

Thursday: EYFS and KS1 Birthday Bells by KS1 and EYFS staff (rota by Phase 1 leader)

KS2 Collective Worship by the KS2 Staff (rota by RE Coordinator)

Friday: Assistant Headteacher Celebration Collective Worship

Individual achievement or outstanding behaviour is celebrated with The Queen's School Blue Shield Badge. Explicit links are made between Christian values and outstanding behaviour.

Each teacher nominates one child per class.

The Good Work Book is celebrated, plus the Tidy Cup is given to one class from each key stage for respecting our classroom environment.

Or Annual Class Assemblies

The Queen's Church of England Primary School

Prayer Ambassador

Job Description

An ambassador at The Queen's C of E Primary School is someone who represents the Christian ethos of our school. These ambassadors conduct themselves by demonstrating our school values, of love, compassion and respect, consistently in their learning and behaviour.

"Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should." Ephesians 6: 19-20

As part of the role of a prayer ambassador there are duties that are required to be fulfilled:

- 1) To lead school prayers at the start and the end of Collective Worship.
- 2) To set up for Collective Worship.
- 3) To monitor the altars and prepare them for Collective Worship.
- 4) Year 6 Prayer Ambassadors call the whole school to Collective Worship by ringing a bell 5 Minutes before hand.
- 5) Year 6 Prayer Ambassadors to light the candle at the start of Collective Worship.
- 6) To think of a reflection area in the school and to monitor this.
- 7) To monitor the evidence of the values love, compassion and respect around our school. During playtimes take photos of children who are demonstrating these values well and write each example in the values book.
- 8) To read prayers, related to the theme, in the Eucharist.
- 9) To monitor prayer boxes in classrooms and to put the best prayers on the website.
- 10) To be responsible for the prayer area in the classroom.

I _____ agree to my roles and responsibilities as a Prayer Ambassador at The Queen's C of E Primary School

Signed: _____ Head teacher, _____ Vicar: _____
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Date: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____