

All Saints' Upton C of E Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Policy Statement

At All Saints Upton School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life.

Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement.

'We aim to live the Christian Gospel at all times in our school environment'

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Christian Values

Although difficult to define, we identify the values of forgiveness, fairness, respect and tolerance of others, integrity, compassion, honesty and self-worth. These values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

John 13:34-35

"...love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples".

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

Values Education

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self-esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

(See Appendix 1 - Our Values)

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday Whole school worship led by the Headteacher or Deputy Head

Tuesday Whole school worship. Class teachers lead these assemblies on a rota basis.

Wednesday can take two forms. Either
Whole school hymn practice, with prayer/reflection time, led by Miss Greenwood.

Or

Whole school worship led by Peter, our local vicar.

Thursday Individual class collective worship, led by the class teacher. These assemblies follow the same theme, but content is differentiated appropriately.

Friday Whole school celebration assembly led by the Deputy Head. This is where we celebrate good work and show links to the value or theme as appropriate.

Each class leads a class assembly once during the school year when parents, relatives and friends are invited to join us. (See Appendix 2 timetable of class assemblies)

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship.

The assembly/worship should last approximately 15 minutes.

Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for **Monday's** collective worship reflect our Values focus for that month, the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events. The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music for the week. The title of this piece of music is shared with the children throughout the week and could come from a variety of cultures. The flameless candle on the focal table are lit and the worship begins, sometimes with the children singing a hymn. The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with a prayer. The candle is then switched off before any messages are given. This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played.

Tuesday's collective worship follows the same format as Monday. Usually it is a Bible story which is linked to the current value or theme.

Wednesday's hymn practice includes the switching on of candle to focus the children's attention and aims to develop the children's understanding of new hymns as well as learning them. The session ends with a time for reflection or a prayer before the candle is switched off and messages are given. The children leave in the same way as before.

Our local Vicar may celebrate worship with the staff and children on a Wednesday. The children enter and leave to music as on previous days.

Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 have planned themes for their acts of collective worship on **Thursdays**. The format is similar to Monday's whole school worship, although, no hymn is sung. During this collective worship time teachers follow a similar format where we Gather, Listen and Respond then Go Forth. Class teachers develop the children's understanding of the Trinity by using a Bible, a cross and a flameless candle in order to focus the worship. (See Appendix 3)

Sharing assembly on **Friday** celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school. Normally, teachers choose two members of their class to share work done that week and one child receives a 'Star of the Week' certificate. This takes place when the candle has been switched on. Once the children have received a round of applause, a prayer is said and the candle is switched off. Parents, relatives and friends are invited to join us for Friday's sharing assembly.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet.

At the beginning of the whole school worship led by the Headteacher or Deputy Head, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the 'lighting' of candles. A cross is also displayed on the focal table.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, a prayer or grace is said in each class.

Teachers usually say a prayer with their class at the end of the school day.

Within each class there is a worship focus area. This displays relevant prayers used within each class. It sometimes has a thought provoking quote.

The school has a Prayer Tree, in the entrance area of the school. Children are encouraged to write short prayers and clip them onto the tree.

Sometimes these are related to the Value for the Month, on other occasions this could be a personal prayer.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

A file is kept, recording details of each act of worship. Any evaluation will be recorded here, including those from the children. Training is encouraged and can be available for those who wish to lead acts of worship.

Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, All Saints' Upton School ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge - their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St Basils and All Saints Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services. Our school has close links with our local vicar, who celebrates communion with our Key Stage 2 children when they have been confirmed.

Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues

- Children may be withdrawn from R.E. lessons at the wish of their parents. The Headteacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.

Equal Opportunities and Special Needs Issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

APPENDIX 1 Values

APPENDIX 2 timetable of Assemblies

APPENDIX 3 planning proforma