



The Ashlands and Misterton Federation Church of England First Schools

*We are a school community with a Christian ethos,
dedicated to providing optimum learning for each
child in a happy atmosphere*

Love of learning, love of life, love of one another
"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10

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Review Cycle	Every three years
Next Review	July 2021

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the church at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context to 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. We aim to provide a happy and safe learning environment where every learner can achieve their full potential.

Policy for Collective Worship

Legal requirements

The law requires that the Head Teacher and Governing Body of every community school provide a daily act of Collective Worship. This is a requirement of the 1988 Education Act that states that most acts of Collective Worship should be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature."

More recently, section 70 of the 1998 Act states: "Each pupil in attendance at a community, foundation or voluntary school shall on each school day take part in an act of Collective Worship."

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship and teachers have a right not to participate in Collective Worship without penalty to career opportunities.

School's core values

Our school encourages a reflection of the Christian foundation of the school. There is also recognition of the realities and values that are of central importance to a community school.

Our Christian core values are; **compassion, friendship, respect, trust, forgiveness** and **aspiration**, all rooted in love.

We endeavour to provide Collective Worship that provides for the needs of all who share it:

- those who are part of the worshipping community in church;
- those from other Christian traditions;
- those from other faith backgrounds;
- those for whom the school may be their first and only experience of church.

School's Collective Worship is an important feature where all can be involved, contribute and gain from the experience.

It aims to develop the spiritual, moral and cultural development of all those present, but also allows individuals the opportunity to make a free response about their thoughts and beliefs. The children are also encouraged to read out prayers that they have written themselves in class or posted in the whole school prayer collection box.

Collective Worship is an integral part of our school life. We seek to celebrate diversity; yet nurture a sense of togetherness, happiness, positivity, fairness and shared values in the school, society and the wider world. We reflect upon moral issues, some of which are current in the world. We take special time out to consider the 'wonder' of God, all He has created and to celebrate life.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Acts of worship are delivered on a daily basis. When whole school gatherings are unable to be held, it is the class

teacher’s responsibility to ensure a collective act of worship takes place.

In both school halls there is a focus table for Collective Worship, a candle is lit and a religious book or prayer book is used. This is used to begin Collective Worship and moved at the end of worship. A focus enables pupils to identify the appropriate use of the room and to distinguish the specific nature of Collective Worship.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings.

We use hymns that aim to encourage awe and wonder in our creator and creation. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and lighting candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children, and give staff and children a time for reflection. Each collective worship is started by the following liturgy; the lead lights a candle and says ‘ May the light of the Lord be with you’ the children respond with ‘and also with you’. Depending on the content of the assembly and the on going development of our programme this liturgy may change. The candle is extinguished at the end of the collective worship.

Collective Worship usually lasts no longer than fifteen minutes, it should be appropriately paced. To engage children, the emphasis is on story, music or drama.

Prayers will be said in class at the end of the morning session to prepare for lunch. Prayers will be said at the end of every day. These prayers can be standard or written by the children. They can be led by the teacher or the children.

Planning

Worship for the academic year is broadly in line with the following plan.

We have adapted the Roots and Fruits Collective Worship Programme which develops the children’s understanding of many of the key Christian values. Each new value is started at the beginning of an academic week. We endeavour to focus on one value over a longer period of time in order to embed knowledge and encourage children to reflect on the value in their daily lives. These are planned over a two-year cycle and are displayed in every classroom.

Where appropriate, individual class worship can be linked to the current RE topic.

Themes may need to be changed in light of current, local and national affairs, which may require a time of thought and reflection.

Example of the weekly overview;

Week :		Worship Focus Value :	Hymns and Songs
DAY	Lead	Focus	I would encourage you to sing these hymns and songs with your children at any opportunity – this is a great way to further embed our values into the daily life of the classroom.
M	Head Teacher	Worship through Song	
T	Class Teacher	Roots and Fruits Based worship	
W	Head teacher or SLT All staff in	Clergy Worship focus on the weekly value	
TH	Class Teacher	Key Skill / Internet Safety/ Daniel England visit / Bible Story linked to termly focus value ie Compassion Worship / British Values Worship	
F	Senior Lead Teacher	Celebration Worship – focus on pupil and staff achievement	

Our collective worships reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by sharing their learning with the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective worship provides an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children

are valued, and all achievements are recognised. The federation of First schools are successful schools, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children and school family at collective worship time.

In the Spring Term there is an individual class worship that we invite our parents and carers to. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.

Reflection Area

All classrooms have a 'Reflection Area' which is used for daily worship or when Collective Worship does not take place in the school halls. It can also be used for class prayer and general reflection. There is also a 'Reflection Area' in the Library area.

Resources

There are a range of Collective Worship resources available to reflect all different learning styles and ages. RE resources kept alongside these may also be useful for Collective Worship. Resources may also be loaned from Resources for Learning.

Leading of Collective Worship

Collective Worship can be led by any member of the teaching staff. All staff leading Collective Worship plan using the Collective Worship overview to structure their session.

Teachers lead class worship and assemblies in their classrooms and school halls as appropriate. Pupils are involved in Collective Worship, when opportunities arise.

Visitors, in the main, reflect the Christian ethos of the school and are usually associated with a Christian denominational church.

The school may also visit St Bartholomew's Church or St Leonard's Church for Collective Worship either as a special occasion or for special events such as Remembrance Day, or as part of the RE curriculum. On these occasions, worship is usually led by the vicar.

Parents

There may be opportunities for Collective Worship to be shared with parents, such as at Harvest. When these opportunities are anticipated, informal invitations are sent to those concerned.

Assessment and recording

In keeping with the whole-school policy, recording and evaluation of all Collective Worship is required.

All staff are given the current themes on a half-termly basis.

SEND

School uses all of its regular strategies to ensure that any barriers for children with special requirements are overcome. These may be practical (attending assembly, being able sit on the floor etc.), or to do with the child's ability to understand/ contribute to the proceedings.

Policy Review

A review of the Policy will take place in line with the School Improvement Plan, and in the light of Government, Local Authority and Diocesan requirements.