

St Nicholas CE Primary Academy



“Learning, loving and encouraging through Christ.”

Collective Worship Policy

Vision Statement

St Nicholas provides a welcoming, inclusive and aspirational learning environment at the heart of its community. We nurture, encourage and support all children, adults and their families to be the best as God intended. Following God’s example of love and trust, we develop resilience and creativity in all we do.



Date published	Policy review date	Agreed by	Date agreed
October 2021	October 2024	LGB	September 2021

Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship will reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and members of the Governing Body.

In order to know God, we must often think of Him; and when we come to love Him, we shall then also think of Him often, for our heart will be with our treasure

A little lifting of the heart suffices; a little remembrance of God, one act of inward worship are prayers which, however short, are nevertheless acceptable to God

Brother Lawrence

Aims

Our school worship is central to the life of the school and contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils, as appropriate to their ages and aptitudes.

- To explore a relationship with God in Jesus Christ.
- To reflect on values that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognising the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions and belief systems
- To consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- To reflect on their own beliefs.
- To deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'little or no formal faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- To develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly through reflection and wondering questions.
- To develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- To foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it.
- To develop a respect for and an understanding of different beliefs.
- To develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of children coming together.
- To have opportunities to live out and explore Biblical teachings.

Organisation

School worship

- Takes place daily
- It is all inclusive – it is for all pupils, is open to the Governing body and parents can be invited.
- Teaching staff are expected to attend and all other staff are welcome.
- Takes place either in the school halls, classrooms, outside areas or St Nicholas Church.
- Is planned, with specific themes, at a level in accordance with the differing age groups and understanding of the pupils attending the act of worship.

- Includes celebration in songs, hymns, readings, drama and other creative ways.
- Allows members of the school community to have opportunities to reflect, responding individually or collectively to a statement of belief, prayer, silence or reflection.
- Celebrates the achievements and learning of all pupils.

As a Church of England School, the content of our worship is organised to:

- Observe the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints' Days.
- Use the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories.
- Learn and say prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the Grace. Then allow for a time of silence and reflection.
- Allow opportunities to speak personal prayers aloud and have time to create prayers for the Prayer Tree or the prayer boxes in each class.
- Sing a wide variety of hymns and songs.
- Experience Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles.
- Use Psalms with simple responses.
- Celebrate Eucharist.
- Use Anglican sentences and responses (e.g The Lord is here, his spirit is with us)
- Link regularly with the congregation and Vicar of St Nicholas and Members of Romney Marsh Community Church.

The nature of Acts of Worship

Our daily act of worship should be an activity that:

- Is educational and spiritually enhancing
- Fosters a sense of community by sharing in fellowship with each other.
- Creates an atmosphere where those who wish to worship can do so.
- Introduces children to aspects of Christian worship and faith in an open and honest atmosphere.
- Encourages children to be creative, questioning and imaginative, within a Christian framework; also recognising the importance of experience, personal values and respect for the beliefs of others.
- Facilitates spiritual growth, enabling children to become true to themselves and others.
- Explores a relationship with God in Jesus Christ.
- Allows children to reflect on values that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst embracing the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions and belief systems.
- Allows children to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- Allows children to reflect on their own beliefs.
- Allows children to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'little or no formal faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- Allows children to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly, with respect for the views of others.
- Allows children to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- Allows children to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- Allows children to develop a respect for and an understanding of different beliefs

- Allows children to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of the community coming together.
- Worship is invitational and children can choose to sit quietly and respectfully during times of prayer

Monday	Whole School (KS2 Hall) – led by the Reverend, Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Pupils
Tuesday	Class worship led by teachers and pupils
Wednesday	Phase worship led by SLT, class worships led by teachers and pupils
Thursday	Class worship led by teachers and pupils
Friday	Celebration Worship (KS2 Hall) – led by Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher

Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement. Each school must provide a Christian act of collective worship for all pupils every day. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class.

See Appendix A for a list of requirements and features of worship at St Nicholas CE Primary Academy.

Planning

CD Leader produces termly and weekly plans. The weekly plans generally follow the Diocesan plans and Roots and Fruits, however these are adapted and changed to suit the needs of the children or reflect a local or world issue (e.g. An earthquake or NSPCC event)

CD leader keeps records of weekly plans and resources to support the worship. Plans are annotated by teachers in class worship and kept.

Inclusion

Acts of worship should include all children and the content should respect the individuality of each child. Acts of worship will be always Christian and will respect the integrity and choices of every person. Prayers will be by invitation and there will be a time for free reflection.

When planning thought should be given to SEND children, especially the VI children, to ensure they can access and engage with the stories and sung worship.

Resources

A budget will be set each year to provide resources needed for the effective delivery of collective acts of worship.

Right of Withdrawal

Although parents and carers have a legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship, by requesting and accepting a place at St Nicholas CE Primary Academy it is hoped that they demonstrate an understanding of the centrality of Christianity to the school and nature of the school as a place with religious education and collective worship in its daily life.

If you do wish for your child/ren to not be present in worship, then a formal request must be made in writing to the Headteacher. The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Evaluation and Record Keeping

The CD Leader will keep a record of the acts of Collective Worship, which shall include sufficient detail to show that this policy is being put into practice, this will include regular evaluation of the

impact of the worship. The pupils, staff and parents will be asked to contribute to the evaluative process.

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the CD Leader, Headteacher and Governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. They should receive copies of the worship scheme, observe whole school acts of collective worship regularly (at least three times per year) and seek the views of pupils.

Evaluations from the children will also be taken into account when planning worship sessions. Worship leaders regularly monitor and evaluate the impact of worship in their classes and feedback to the DHT.

Self-assessment and Inspection

School Self-assessment will be completed on the SIAMS Toolkit by Headteacher and CD Leader.

Worship is inspected under S48 of the Education Act.