

Collective Worship Policy

Purley CE Primary School

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Review Cycle: 2 years

Reviewed By: Curriculum & Pupil Welfare Committee

Approved By: Curriculum & Pupil Welfare Committee

Last Reviewed: Spring 2017

Next review date: Spring 2019



Purley Church of England (Controlled) Primary School Collective Worship policy

The aim of the Collective Worship policy at Purley Church of England (Controlled) Primary School is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- worship God
- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- Respond to the worship offered.

(DFE Circular1/94)

Statutory Duty of School

The current legislative framework is found in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Summarized the main points are:

There must be a daily act of worship for every child. This can be at any time of the day in any normal grouping. In Voluntary Church schools such as Purley it is the governing body's responsibility, after consultation with the headteacher, to ensure a daily act of collective worship takes place. Purley has two foundation governors.

Collective worship must be in addition to any secular assemblies. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. This means that collective worship should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief but can contain non-Christian elements. Broadly Christian worship should be appropriate to family backgrounds whilst according a special status to Jesus Christ.

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually provided within a daily assembly.

The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the head teacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted.

Both teachers and parents have a legal right of withdrawal. The school brochure has a statement about parents' right to withdraw their child/children from collective worship and religious education.

Policy Statement

At Purley Primary 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.

“Learn to love, love to learn”

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements and support each other through good and bad times. 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.

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.

Monitoring Collective Worship

- The foundation Governor monitors Collective worship as part of a governor visit
- The school's plans for collective worship are kept.
- Pupil conferences gather pupil's views of Collective worship
- Teacher's provide feedback to the headteacher
- SIAMS inspections take place every 5 years with an interim after 2 ½ years

Purley Church of England (Controlled) Primary School Guidelines for Collective worship

As a Church of England (Controlled) Primary school we provide a daily act of collective worship which enables us to celebrate and review the values by which we live. A time where Christian values may be reflected and affirmed.

We welcome visitors to participate in organising acts of worship. Members of the church visit school on a regular basis throughout the year to conduct the Act of Worship and the children visit St Mary's Church for a service each term. From time to time, we welcome speakers from other denominations, charities and organisations.

We aim to:

- provide moments of quality and reflection
- create opportunities to share in a sense of awe and wonder
- provide time to acknowledge and reflect on God
- Enable young children to take part in worship on which language and concepts appropriate to their age are used.

What is worship?

Margaret Cooling in Assemblies for Primary Schools identified the following as activities that can be called worship:

- Reflection on the meaning and purpose of life
- Pondering ultimate questions
- Developing a sense of transcendence
- Responding to challenge
- Experimental exploration of a religious idea
- Celebration of learning about religion
- Learning from the experience of others.

At Purley School, collective worship is delivered through a range of activities that are age appropriate in language and content. Some of the approaches used include:

- telling a story
- involving pupils and staff
- describing a situation or event
- drama
- puppets
- "part speaking"
- visitors into school

- visual aids and artefacts
- silence

What is broadly Christian?

Acts of worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature. Our understanding of 'Broadly Christian' is that through our acts of worship children should come to a greater understanding of those principles, values and characteristics displayed by Jesus throughout his life, in his ministry and teaching and by His own example. These will include the school's chosen values of

- Love
- Enjoyment
- Hope
- Perseverance
- Responsibility

Collective Worship is **inclusive**:

- Pupil centred, related to pupils own experience and relevant to pupil concerns
- it acknowledges diversity
- Involves pupils as active participants
- matches the needs of pupils
- fosters a sense of belonging to the school and to the wider community

Creating ambience and atmosphere

It is important that everything needed for Collective Worship is ready before the pupils arrive. The playing of music signals the start of collective worship. Pupils need to know that collective worship is about to begin and they are expected to sit quietly and listen to the music. The worship begins with a call and response. A candle is lit and signals a time of reflection. A consistent dismissal system involves the children walking out quietly to music. The signal is given by eye contact to the pupils who need to move first. The other children remain quietly listening to the music until it is their turn to move. Collective worship ends when the music stops and the candle is blown out.

Music

Music is usually selected for the half term. We aim to provide a variety of music from different cultures and times.

The headteacher teaches hymns and songs to the pupils, on Wednesdays. This practice takes place immediately after collective worship. During collective worship singing is accompanied by the guitar, the key board or taped music. Sometimes the singing is unaccompanied.

Prayer

Pupils are taught that worship is an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected. Pupils of other faiths are made aware that they are not required to say Christian prayers but that silence and reflection encourage spiritual growth. We remind our pupils that they need to be quiet during prayers. Pupils are encouraged to contribute to prayer in collective worship by bringing a prayer from home, writing their own or by asking to read a favourite.

Organisation

Mondays	Visit from a representative from St Mary's Church
Tuesdays	Class assemblies led by class teachers in KS2 Team assemblies led by Team leader KS1 and FS in hall
Wednesdays	Worship led by headteacher followed by hymn practice Class assemblies led by class teachers in KS1
Thursdays	Team assemblies led by Team leader KS 2 and FS in hall
Fridays	Worship led by headteacher followed by celebration assembly