

Collective Worship Policy

Sheering CE Primary School



Agreed on: Spring Term 2021

Next review: Spring Term 2024

Sheering Church of England Primary School is a Christian community where our TERRIFIC values are at the foundation of everything that we do. We aim to create an environment in which all members of the school community are equally valued and have equal opportunity to achieve their full potential. We aim to appreciate the diversity of society, so we can create richer educational experiences, both academically and socially for all.

At Sheering School, where Everyone Matters, we work together to be joyful, to flourish and to succeed. We celebrate the uniqueness of every child in our school community because, we are God's Masterpiece.

Introduction

This policy is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for Collective Worship at Sheering school and is in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and statutory requirements.

We believe that the daily act of collective worship is seen as an important and fundamental part of promoting, strengthening and celebrating the Christian ethos and values of the school as highlighted in our vision statement. It enables pupils and staff to gather together to respond to the presence, power and peace of God through prayer, reflection, singing, sharing and communicating feelings. Worship should enable participants to develop an understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

As a Church school, worship is an affirmation and celebration of our Christian ethos where children have the opportunity to learn, worship and grow in their understanding of God and of themselves.

Aims and Objectives

Our aims and objectives for collective worship provide an opportunity for all our pupils, staff and our wider school community to come together in an act of Christian worship. The aims and purpose of Collective Worship as defined by the Education Reform Act 1988 are as follows:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To develop a deeper awareness and understanding of themselves, their feelings, their experiences and explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To appreciate the feelings and needs of others, developing a sense of Christian community in our school and as part of a wider Anglican community
- To become aware of, and celebrate what has meaning, value and purpose for them, for our school and for the wider community
- To celebrate difference and diversity
- To feel a sense of awe and wonder of the world about them, and an appreciation of beauty and mystery
- To provide opportunities for reflection and spiritual development
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes.

Anglican Faith and Practice

In addition to the above, we seek to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England therefore:

- We use the Bible as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and make pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other verses of scripture.
- Pupils are also introduced to a variety of well-known prayers – many of which express the central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.
- We use aspects of Anglican liturgy to create a framework for worship.
- We use Christian symbols as a focus for reflection and provide opportunities to discover the value of meditation and silence.
- We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals.

Strategies for providing Collective Worship

Organisation:

The daily act of collective worship usually takes place in conjunction with, but separate from, an assembly. Collective worship is timetabled and follows a weekly pattern of worship. The rector usually leads the school once a week in an act of worship. The weekly Singing Practice includes a time of reflection and prayers as well as a focus on the words of each song as it is introduced. Worship takes place daily at 9.10am every day. It may also take place in class groups or alongside circle times.

To create an appropriate atmosphere for our collective worship a selected piece of music is played as the children assemble and leave. A visual focus for the children to reflect upon is provided either as a screen image or on a clothed table; these foci may be accompanied by a text from the bible or other stimulating source.

Some acts of worship are held at St. Mary's Church for children and families. These include Harvest, Christmas, Mothers' Day and Easter.

Pupil Participation

We actively encourage children to take a part in Collective Worship.

This will take the following forms:

- Interactive participation at the invitation of the worship leader or visitor
- Each class chooses songs and evaluates worship on a weekly rota basis. They may also make suggestions for worship themes or for music to listen to
- Children are invited to lead prayers
- Impromptu drama and reading, or activities such as these that are rehearsed in advance
- Preparing the hall for worship
- In addition, assemblies are led by groups of children e.g. School Council, Playleaders and whole classes once a week
- Members of the Prayer Committee evaluate Collective Worship and feed back to the Worship Co-ordinator

Connections with Other Christian Denominations and Faiths

At Sheering Church of England Primary School, we recognise that while some of our pupils and families belong to Anglican churches, some worship regularly at churches of other Christian denominations, while others come from different faith backgrounds or none. We endeavour to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised, where everyone finds something positive for themselves and there is no pressure to participate inappropriately or to believe.

Visitors

Visitors are warmly welcomed and especially valued to enhance the quality and diversity of our worship. Parents, families and friends of the school are always welcome to participate in our collective worship but are specifically invited to join us for our weekly celebration worship and for worship to celebrate festivals.

Planning

Weekly themes are drafted by the Worship Coordinator and shared with the Rector and Foundation Governors. Details of each term's themes are displayed in the staff room. It is our intention to involve children more closely in the initial planning of worship themes. Staff are always welcome to suggest a theme to be addressed and planning is adjusted to reflect current issues in school, locally and nationally where appropriate.

Worship Co-ordinator

The Worship Co-ordinator is responsible for:

- Worship policy development including informing the school development plan.
- Planning the yearly programme.
- Leading whole school INSET to refresh ideas, explore good practice and new initiatives, and to disseminate information as appropriate.
- The purchase of resources in conjunction other staff.
- Organising and maintaining resources, advising staff on these and helping them to select the most appropriate for a particular focus.
- Monitoring:
 - Planning and implementation of collective worship.
 - Pupil responses/staff feedback and evaluation.

Resources

Resources for planning worship are stored in the Headteacher's office. A selection of Christian artefacts is stored in the small cupboard between the KS2 classes. Bibles are stored in the library and in classrooms.

Special Needs

Children with special needs receive the care and support that they individually require to access collective worship as outlined in our Special Needs Policy.

Health and Safety

Collective worship, including visits, takes place in accordance with the School's Health and Safety Policy and Guidelines.

Equal Opportunities

All pupils (regardless of gender, cultural background, class, disability and ability) will have the opportunity to achieve the highest possible achievements without making impossible demands on them.

All children will be encouraged to value their own and other people's contributions.

For further details see the School's Equal Opportunities Policy.

Withdrawals

In the event of parents requesting that their child be withdrawn from Worship, alternative arrangements will be agreed through consultation with the parents, Headteacher and staff. It is hoped that parents will discuss withdrawal with the Headteacher before coming to a decision. Withdrawal should be stated in writing.