

Chirbury and Stiperstones Federation

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Principles

Collective Worship at Chirbury and Stiperstones plays an important part in the life of our school. At its 'living centre' of the work, worship and worth of the school, it offers the whole school community opportunities to experience/participate in/take responsibility for the living expression of Christian worship, valued and honoured through the school's Anglican Foundation. This is set within the context of the corporate community of our school, which values and affirms every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, sex, ability, background or religion.

We believe that the act of collective worship should provide:-

- ❖ a doorway into worship, through which all can look, but only the committed are expected to enter
- ❖ a sense of special occasion
- ❖ activities from the rich diversity of worship activity eg readings, singing, prayer, reflection, meditation, use of symbol and artefact, performance of music, drama and/or dance, the sharing of personal values, through the use of personal story or anecdote
- ❖ opportunities to explore and learn about the beliefs, stories, values, practices and traditions of Christianity
- ❖ time to consider the spiritual dimensions of life, evoking responses, eg amazement, awe, wonder, thankfulness, anger, sadness, delight in life.

We also believe that hypocrisy should be avoided and personal integrity emphasized. The act of worship should be capable of eliciting a response from pupils, including those who do not come from Christian families.

It should:

- ❖ respect their feelings and thoughts and involve them in an activity with which they can identify
- ❖ allow them to respond in a positive manner personally or collectively – in thought, or word or silence
- ❖ create a moral and spiritual climate, which will have relevance and meaning for as many pupils as possible
- ❖ allow for them to be both informed and challenged, according to their stages of intellectual or emotional development

Inclusive language (e. "We believe that"or "We will all pray") will be avoided in favour of more open approach, (eg "Christians believe that"and "I invite you to join me in this prayer".....)

Legal requirements

Our daily Act of Collective Worship is in accordance with the implied principles of the Trust Deed of the school. This requires worship to be **consistent with** the faith, principles and practices of the Church of England.

We also take into account DfFE legislation:

Worship will be

- ❖ appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils
- ❖ provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders
- ❖ in sympathy with the school community in relation to cultures and beliefs represented

We recognise the right of withdrawal from Worship for pupils at the request of parents and for staff, but currently enjoy the full support of the whole community and if pupils were withdrawn they would be looked after by a member of teaching staff.

Schools are required to

- ❖ provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils
- ❖ ensure that the majority of acts of worship taken over a term will be of a "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character"
- ❖ ensure that the broad traditions of Christian belief reflected in the act of worship should be appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes
- ❖ ensure that pupils and teachers can opt out of attending on grounds of conscience
- ❖ in Controlled and Aided schools the GOVERNING BODY are responsible for the act of worship after consultation with the headteacher
- ❖ in County school the Act of Worship must take place in school. In Church schools they can be held elsewhere, ie the church.

Aims of Collective Worship

for **Worship**

- to enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils
- to foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- to create an atmosphere in which God is both normal and natural
- to foster a reverential attitude to God, the divine, the transcendent
- to explore and enjoy praise, prayer, and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)
- to affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God
- to enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian adherents
- to foster and value a search for a faith to live by
- to learn about and reflect upon Christian Teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community
- to worship together rather than apart (whilst taking into account the multicultural nature of every school community)
- to provide an evocative setting for worship, with comfort for pupils and staff and appropriate resources, including a spiritual focus.

for **Assembly**

- to recognise the beliefs and culture of others
- to develop a sense of community and shared values
- to consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- to be challenging and inspiring
- to celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit
- to celebrate achievements of members of the school that are held to be of worth – to foster a thought-provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response.

Management of Collective Worship

The Governing Body have responsibility to ensure what is implied by the Trust Deed of the school is honoured. (In due course they have the responsibility to appoint the Section 23 Inspector, who carries out the Church Inspection of the school, alongside the OFSTED Inspection.) In conjunction with the headteacher, staff and school community the worship policy created articulates the management and delivery of this area of the curriculum. Parents are also kept informed through the school prospectus.

The worship co-ordinator has responsibility for managing this area of the curriculum on a day to day basis, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with. This involves the production of a coherent programme for Collective Worship, which has continuity of Christian teaching and experience and breadth and balance as is appropriate to the school community.

Records of content are kept centrally for whole-school worship and it is the responsibility of the Key Stage co-ordinators to liaise with the worship co-ordinator, so that full records and knowledge of the actual implementation of the worship programme is covered.

The worship co-ordinator also has responsibility for auditing and keeping records of resources and ensuring they are accessible to pupils and staff as appropriate. An equitable budget needs to be negotiated to ensure the worship programme can be carried out effectively.

The worship co-ordinator also keeps in touch with development in the subject and acts in an advisory capacity to colleagues, ensuring that worship is prioritised on the School Development Plan, to allow for INSET and resource development. Monitoring the quality of Collective Worship is an on-going process. This needs to be managed on a weekly/termly basis to ensure that effective review can take place.