

Introduction

In accordance with legal requirements, but also reflecting our status as a Church of England school, we provide an act of worship every day for all pupils.

Aims

Collective worship should reflect some of the essential features within the rich traditions of Anglican prayer and worship. We acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. There may be occasions when both form part of the same gathering, but we aim to make clear the difference between the two. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and is not subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including Religious Education. The responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the RE coordinator, Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body. Collective worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement, but an integral part of school life and central to the Anglican tradition. It is a time to gather together and worship as a school community.

Objectives

Collective worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils:

- To explore Christian values and beliefs.
- To understand and apply our school values and relate them to biblical teaching.
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues.
- To explore their own beliefs.
- To respond to and celebrate life.
- To promote knowledge of the Bible through the 8 concepts of Understanding Christianity.
- To experience a sense of belonging to a community and develop community spirit.
- To develop a common ethos and shared values.
- To enrich religious experience.
- To grow in knowledge and understanding of Church of England practice.
- To encourage participation and response (active and/or passive).
- To learn Christian prayers and to actively take part in worship acts.
- To inspire awe and wonder.
- To contemplate something of the mystery of God.
- Time for quiet reflection.
- To praise and worship God through song and spoken word.

Guidelines

Planning, content and delivery

Whole school collective worship takes place daily in the hall.

Each worship contains four elements.

1. **Gathering:** drawing into worship, creating a distinctive atmosphere and feeling of expectation. Worship music is played as the children enter the hall for children to quietly listen to. The lighting of the school candle and the whole school spoken response signifies the start of worship.
2. **Engaging:** This could be bible input, telling a story on a Christian value with props or through drama, using visual images (photographs/paintings) to explore a Christian value or having discussion based on moral dilemmas and asking how Jesus might respond.
3. **Responding:** Offering all present a time to respond to what they have heard in a way that is appropriate to them, in the spirit of invitation not compulsion. This could be:
 - saying a prayer.
 - asking those present to offer prayers
 - having a time of silent reflection
 - having a time of reflection with music
 - having an opportunity to talk to peers and reflect
4. **Sending:** Leaving the act of worship, which should have a purpose. This could involve extinguishing the candle, singing a song or leaving to a selected piece of music.

Children lead in the collective worship by gathering children in prayer and lighting the candle. Where appropriate, children lead with drama, readings and actions.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers in use including the Lord's Prayer, the School Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of collective worship, a time of welcome and reflection is encouraged by the lighting of the school candle.

Children may sometimes be encouraged to take part in active prayer, joining in with words or actions as they are led in prayer times

Grace is always said before lunch, led by teaching staff in classrooms or in the dining hall, and the end of the day is always ended with a time of prayer. Each classroom has a reflection area where the children can pray or reflect in times of worship.

Each term the Shine Squad Worship team lead termly prayer week activities at lunch times for children to come and take time to pray. These times are planned, facilitated and led by the pupil worship team for all key stages.

On or around ascension day we take part in the Thy Kingdom Come prayer movement and join Christians around the world in praying collectively. Each class has an allotted time slot to enter a prayer space with various prayer activities for them to engage with. This is often led by our Vicar or Children's Worker from St Peter's Church

Other Faiths

Although our worship is wholly Christian in nature, we are committed to the faith traditions and cultures of others, showing tolerance and understanding. We affirm the purpose of a Church school as being, in the words of Lord Runcie:

- to nourish those of faith;
- to encourage those of other faiths;
- to challenge those who have no faith.

Specifics of Worship

Collective worship is led by a variety of staff and regular representatives from Churches. Members of the community, local religious groups, pupils and other positive role models are also encouraged to deliver Collective worship.

Acts of Worship are also held in St Peter's Church at Easter and Christmas.

All key stages on a 2 year rolling programme visit the church as part of their RE curriculum. This is also to help the children to understand what worship looks like with the church building and make links with the church community. These sessions are led and facilitated by our Vicar the Church congregation.

Weekly Overview of Worship

Monday – Shining light Celebration Assembly

Tuesday – Head teacher Collective Worship

Wednesday – Worship led by staff linked to school values.

Thursday – RE lead worship

Friday – Hymn Practise

Collective worship takes place between 1.10pm and 1.30pm

Race Equality

At St Peter's C of E Primary Academy Mansfield we value and respect all people equally regardless of race, religion, colour, cultural background or language. We recognise that while providing a daily act of worship which is broadly Christian in nature, our pupils are from diverse backgrounds. This diversity is highly valued and means that differing responses to material presented during collective worship are both expected and respected.

Withdrawal

The Education Reform Act, 1988 makes provision for pupils and staff to withdraw from Collective Worship, following appropriate notification to the Headteacher.