



Vincent Edwards Church of England Aided First School Collective Worship Policy Autumn Term 2014.

Our Mission Statement: Vincent Edwards Church of England First School seeks to ensure that all children achieve the highest possible academic standards, within the context of a caring community where attitudes of mutual respect and responsibility are promoted and Christian values form a central part of the schools ethos.

At Vincent Edwards we fully endorse the view that 'every child matters' and our school seeks to ensure that its provision fully supports this philosophy.

Rationale:

Collective Worship at Vincent Edwards Church of England First School takes place daily in accordance with the provisions of the Education Reform Act 1988.

Collective Worship affirms and celebrates the ethos and values of our school, whilst recognising the principles of the Christian Faith and is in accordance with the Trust deed of this Church of England School.

As a Church of England School, our Collective Worship follows the customs and practice of the Church of England and recognizes the historic links between the contributions of the Anglican Church to our children's education and every day life.

This policy has been prepared by the Governors, headteacher and staff. It will be reviewed in accordance with our Policy Cycle on an three yearly basis

Aims:

We seek to reflect in our worship the Christian Foundation of the school and its care for all who work here.

Our aims for Collective Worship are:

- For Collective Worship to be central to the life of the school and valued by all.
- To provide our pupils with a daily opportunity for stillness, reflection and prayer.

- To provide an environment where the strengths of each individual are nurtured and valued.
- To nourish and strengthen children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through well resourced, thought provoking Acts of Worship.
- To promote a Christian Values led school in the heart of its community.
- To help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs of others.
- To encourage a sense of unity and personal identity.
- To help children be aware of their uniqueness and sense of pride in their own special ' God given talents'.
- To empathise with others and to enable our children to have mutual respect for one another.
- To increase children's understanding of other faiths and the Anglican Church worldwide.

We support the broader curriculum through the use of music, art, drama, and literature.

Collective Worship is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life, to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our pupils.

Our Practice:

During Collective Worship all our children will be given opportunities to reflect, share, listen and sing. Throughout each term these opportunities will occur through poetry, story telling, Bible readings, visual aids, drama, shared experiences, prayers, silence, meditation, songs and hymns.

Within this variety of medium we recognize, affirm and celebrate:

- An appreciation of our world.
- Matters of truth, goodness and beauty.
- The highest achievements of which we are capable.
- A recognition of the interdependence of human beings – especially those in need.
- Our belief in God as Creator, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
- The bible as the unique authority as God's word for Christians.

All staff take it in turn to lead Collective Worship and these are whole school based. Reverend Phillip our local vicar takes our Collective Worship once a week. The whole school also visits Holy Trinity Church for Harvest, Christingle, Easter and a special Leavers Service. A monthly church based assembly is held in church where Parents, Governors and the Wider Community are invited to join us. We invite visitors from different organisations to raise children's understanding of global issues and how we may help others.

Content and Approach:

We have developed a range of themes and topics in Collective Worship which enable our children to participate, enjoy, be stimulated **by** and gain comfort **from** our daily Act of Worship.

Contents include:

- Celebration of the major festivals of Christianity and other faiths.
- Presentation of Bible Stories
- Topical matters from the local area and worldwide news.
- Literature with religious teachings as its message.
- Appreciation of the natural world of human activity.
- Celebration of the talents, achievements and work of ourselves and others.
- Prayers in a variety of forms such as formal, pupils' own and silent reflection.
- Use of drama and music.
- Appropriate artefacts and focal points.
- Participation by the children.

Resources:

Resources to support Collective Worship are purchased from the school budget in line with the School Development Plan priorities. They are kept in the Worship area of the hall.

Withdrawal:

As a Church of England School our Collective Worship is a central part of the life of our school. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Should any parent make such requests, appropriate arrangements will be made for the supervision of children following consultation. Parents who have concerns about the

provision and practice of our Collective Worship are encouraged to contact the headteacher.

Evaluation and Review:

A Worship Resource File is stored centrally. This includes a timetable of adult led worship, planning and evaluations.

The co-ordinator for Collective Worship is Christina Lillie.

In line with our policy schedule this policy will be reviewed every three years.

This policy will be ratified by governors during Autumn Term 2014.