



SYWELL CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

'Working Together in God's Hands'

Agreed Date	September 2020
Review date	September 2022

Sywell CEVA Primary School Collective Worship Policy 2020

Rationale

At Sywell CEVA Primary School we understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves pupils and staff coming together and participating in a daily gathering. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that collective worship should be wholly or broadly of a Christian character, we base our collective worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we aim to conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of school.

Collective worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Sywell CEVA Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- Share common aims and values
- Celebrate achievement and special times
- Explore together the world in which we live
- Develop a community spirit

Aims for Collective Worship

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the children and school community to worship God
- To enable the children and school community to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable the children and adults to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- To introduce different ways of worshipping

At Sywell CEVA Primary School Collective Worship is central to our life and work as we offer the distinctive contribution of a Voluntary Aided Church School. We provide an opportunity for children and staff to worship in a contemporary Christian style, which is consistent with the traditional beliefs and practices of the Church of England.

Practicalities of Organisation

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school each afternoon. We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worship time is special thinking time for calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect them to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teaching and invite them to participate in prayer and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and a cross and candle that acts as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The Head Teacher, Senior Teachers and other members of staff conduct collective worship. One day per week, the incumbent or benefice evangelist will lead worship (unless the benefice is interregnum). Once a month, Collective Worship is led by representatives of the 'Lighthouse Trust'. This brings greater variety to our worship times and strengthens links between school and the local church. Parents are invited to collective worship on Fridays and other special services eg at Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year. This promotes the community spirit of the school. We welcome governors' attendance at our collective worship at any time. Other opportunities for prayer and reflection are given at lunchtimes and in classes at the end of each school day. Each class also has access to a prayer space and prayer book. Worship opportunities are also offered to staff, children and their families as we attend services (eg Christingle) at the benefice churches, as well as hosting 'Messy Church' services at school.

Content

A plan of themes runs bi-annually reflecting the values we have chosen as a school. These are; Hope, Tolerance, Trust, Respect, Honesty, Compassion, Justice, Koinonia, Service, Forgiveness, Humility and Perseverance. We also consider and reflect on the festivals and special times of the Christian calendar. A weekly record is kept of all acts of worship, recording themes covered. We also hold collective worship that reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in collective worship by showing their work to others and sharing issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements recognised.

Resources

The Lion Storyteller Bible and The Lion Bible for Children are used as the regular source of Bible material to share with children. Song words and powerpoints are kept electronically on the worship drive. The use of resources and budget is reviewed as necessary by governors and CW coordinator and provision then allocated as appropriate.

Useful websites to be used include; www.barnabasinschools.org.uk, www.imaginer.co.uk

Evaluation, Monitoring and Review

It is the role of a named governor/committee to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. As part of this, pupil interviews are carried out/ pupil evaluation forms are reviewed etc. This governor liaises with the head teacher before reporting to governors on collective worship.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly, and we discuss this with parents at the time of admission. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with current legislation. The Head Teacher keeps a record of any children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.