Lyne and Longcross C of E (Aided) Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Approved: 05/10/2022

Renewal: 01/09/2023

Introduction

At Lyne and Longcross acts of collective worship for all pupils provide a focus for the school day.

The character of collective worship in our Church School is Christian in accordance with the trust deed of the school, determined by the school's Governors in consultation with the Diocese of Guildford. As a school we value every individual and have a wish to create a place of possibilities where children develop a lasting love of learning and through working together as a community will be encouraged and nurtured to fulfil their god given potential. Collective worship plays an important role in fulfilling this vision and provides daily opportunities to come together to share in worship as a community.

Aims

To give pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- Celebrate being part of the school community
- Broaden their awareness of themselves, others and the world in which they live so that they recognise cultural diversity as enriching rather than threatening
- Explore areas which directly concern them
- Experience religious worship where there is recognition of the existence of God as a supreme being
- Explore their own beliefs and values alongside the beliefs and values of others
- Reflect and internalise ideas in an atmosphere which promotes spirituality, attitudes of respect, awe and wonder
- To provide a pattern to the school day, and to the Church Year, which children grow to understand in terms of their own daily routines and shared traditions
- Experience a moment of stillness in a busy day
- Acts of Worship will encourage pupils to consider their own place in the community, help understand the importance of British Values and how they shape us in terms of being responsible citizens.

All present should feel valued whatever their faith or personal beliefs. Under no circumstances will pupils be asked to accept beliefs that are contrary to their family background

Legal Framework

Our Collective Worship policy fulfils the statutory requirements common to all schools according to the 1988 Education Reform Act (and consolidated in the 1996 Education Act). These are outlined below

All maintained schools must provide Collective Worship for all pupils.
Collective Worship must be offered daily, but may be offered at any time during the school day
It can be a single act for all pupils, or separate acts for any normal grouping of pupils e.g. a class, key stage, or a year
The headteacher, in consultation with the governing body, has the responsibility for making arrangements for worship

Most of the acts of worship in any one term must be of a wholly, or mainly, of a broadly Christian character
The way in which this 'Christian character' is defined must be decided by each individual school, with regard to the pupils' family background, ages and aptitudes.

Right of withdrawal

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship on grounds of conscience, should they wish to do so, but we believe that Collective Worship is inclusive and beneficial for all pupils. It is hoped that no child will have to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. If parents/carers wish to withdraw their child they should discuss this with the Headteacher. Where a decision is made to withdraw, arrangements will be made for the child to be supervised elsewhere during the act of worship.

Planning and Implementation

The Headteacher is responsible for planning themes for collective worship through assemblies. Collective Worship is at 9.00am each morning in the School Hall and in the Church on Tuesdays at 10.00am (alternating each weekly for each key stage). Monday will introduce the theme for the week and a relevant passage of scripture. Wednesday's collective worship will have, where applicable, a Bible story linked to the weekly theme.
All members of the school community are invited to worship with the children at church services to mark key events through the year (Easter, Moving on Service, Harvest and Christingle). Reverend Laurence Gamlen, from Lyne Vicarage is closely involved with the children, staff and parents. All parents are invited to attend all Church Services. The Church caters specifically for families at its All Age Worship on the first Sunday of every month. Parents are also invited to attend events in the School Hall involving acts of worship such as our Class Assemblies and at church such as our Nativity Play.

Prayer is important to all our acts of worship. Grace is said at lunch time and home time prayers at the end of the day. Each class has its own class prayer which is written by the children each September at the start of a new school year. Children are encouraged to contribute their own prayers which are valued alongside the range of prayers known to the children and one off new prayers. Some prayers can be all embracing, using phrases such as "Thank you for our wonderful world" which can be enjoyed by all children whether they have a faith or not, prayers addressed to God can be inclusive of all religions, other prayers children can be given the option to join in with by saying Amen, or sit quietly through. Prayer can also take the form of quiet reflection.

Themes for daily acts of Collective Worship (Assemblies) are based on a half term's theme derived from the school's values which underpin our school vision: these are Faith, Respect, Courage, Belonging, and Fairness.

Monitoring Arrangements

Governors are invited to attend assemblies and Church Services.
All aspects of the school's religious provision are examined by SIAMS.