



Ryhall Church of England Academy

POLICY STATEMENT COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

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| Formulation date: | February 2015 |
| Senior Team Responsibility: | K Walker |
| Link Foundation Governors: | A Rogers, M Kee, G Waller |
| Collective Worship Responsibility: | C Hicks |
| Reviewed: | |
| Next Review Date: | February 2017 |
| Associated Documentation: | |

Collective Worship in Schools, DFE, 1994

Ethos Statement

- We will provide the very best education to ensure happiness and achievement for all; aiming for excellence in teaching and learning in order to achieve outstanding learning outcomes. We will celebrate success at every part of the learning journey, individually and collectively.
- We will work in partnership with parents, carers, schools, the church and other organisations to enable our pupils to become confident, responsible and lifelong learners, within their local environment, nationally and globally.
- We will continuously work towards keeping children safe by encouraging them to communicate effectively and through personal development, behaviour and welfare. We aim to prepare children for the excitement and challenges of the 21st Century.
- We are committed to the development of each individual child through a strong Christian ethos which encourages:
 - **endurance,**
 - **compassion,**
 - **friendship,**
 - **trust and**
 - **respect**

all within the context of Christian belief and practice. We aim for children to:

'Look back with pride and move forward with confidence.'

Aims:

1. To promote a Christian ethos of caring, sharing and forgiveness that underpins our work.
2. To encourage everyone to aspire to their highest academic and personal potential and to create opportunities to help them achieve greater independence.
3. To provide children with high quality, relevant experiences which promote high standards of achievement academically, creatively, personally, socially, morally, culturally and spiritually.
4. To recognise and value the contributions of all people within the school community.
5. To provide a secure and supportive environment that promotes healthy lifestyles, happiness and a sense of caring and belonging.

6. To work in partnership with all those involved in the life of the academy in order to create an atmosphere of openness, trust and respect that enables people to undertake their responsibilities.
7. To develop positive self-esteem, confidence and enthusiasm for all, developing an awareness of self-worth and pride in achievements.
8. To develop and implement exciting, challenging and varied learning experiences which meet the needs of the 21st century for all.
9. To ensure children develop the necessary life skills to prepare them for life and work.

At Ryhall Church of England Academy our daily act of worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through our worship, our Christian teaching and in the general ethos of the school, we seek to share our core values: Compassion, Endurance, Friendship, Respect and Trust.

The Nature of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is the school community coming together to share together in an act of Christian worship. Each experience of CW will be positive and will encourage a thoughtful response.

In Collective Worship we aim to:

- *Promote our Christian ethos and shared values;
- *Give children the experience and opportunity to participate in Christian worship;
- *Affirm a sense of community with God;
- *Reinforce positive attitudes;
- *Achieve a sense of occasion;
- *Contribute to the religious education of all children.

The basic elements of worship may include:

- *A sense of awe, wonder, mystery;
- *Celebration;
- *A time of reflection;
- *A search for the purpose and meaning of life;
- *Humility - recognising strengths and weaknesses in ourselves and others
- *Discovery and experience of personal reactions such as joy, thankfulness, sorrow.

Legal Requirements

The 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3) states the requirement of every child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole class, school or group. Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Parents / carers should contact the Head Teacher should they wish to discuss this. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading or taking part in worship.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Our current organisation is as follows:

- Monday: 'Celebrating Success' – led by the Headteacher

- Tuesday: The Weekly Worship theme; school values based
- Wednesday: Our Community (local, national, global)
- Thursday: Worship through music
- Friday: Conclusion to the weekly theme led by Reverend Paddy; Family Collective Worship

Themes are used on a weekly basis during CW and planned by the RE coordinator. Content is positive, engaging and aims to provoke a thoughtful response. Stories, poetry, art, drama, science, music and song are used to make CW inclusive and interactive.

Themes reflect: Main Christian festivals; Bible stories; the environment; human experience; global issues; current issues; festivals from other faiths. Every act of CW, including 'Sing and Praise' includes prayer, reflection and worship songs or hymns.

Prayers include those written by children, prayers for special times of the year and The Lord's Prayer. Children also join in with Grace before lunch and prayers at the end of each day. A display featuring children's own prayers is evident in the foyer of the school as well as an opportunity for any staff, children, visitors to write their own prayers which can be placed in the box.

Record Keeping, Monitoring and Evaluation.

A file is kept to record the current theme, song/hymn sung, prayer and reflection focus and an evaluation by a range of children. More detailed evaluations are conducted by the CW Lead.

The RE coordinator observes and monitors CW. The Foundation Governors visit regularly and join in with CW, church services and school celebrations (such as the Christmas Nativity). The Governors also monitor CW and assess impact by talking to children and staff. Notes of all visits, observations and meetings are kept on file.

The Foundation Governors regularly report back to the Governing Body, focussing on outcomes, evaluation of visits and dated action points for the future.

Visits and Visitors

Visitors to school are made very welcome. Our Parish Priest, Rev McKee (Rev Paddy) visits school once a week and leads CW. We also enjoy visits from Rev Fyall from the Methodist Church. We request visits from other people who are able to extend and enhance the children's learning.

We use our parish church as a valuable resource as well as attending services in the church throughout the year; Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance. We also visit other places of worship.

Other Faiths

Our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values. Ryhall C of E Academy is also committed to learning about and respecting other faiths and cultures and encouraging tolerance and understanding.

Equal Opportunities Statement

All children and adults, regardless of race, religion, gender, age or ability shall be equally valued and respected. We believe this is an integral and vital part of our learning.

Appendix One: Routines and Expectations (excerpt from document)

Morning Prayer – Read by class teacher/assistant or a chosen child.

Dear Lord and Father of all,

Thank you for today.

Thank you for ways in which you provide for us all. For Your protection and love we thank you.

Help us to focus our hearts and minds now on what we are about to learn.

Inspire us by Your Holy Spirit as we listen and write.

Guide us by your eternal light as we discover more about the world around us.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

3.25 End of day prayer (Monday – Lord's Prayer). All class pray together.

Collective Worship: 11.25 – 11.40

- Correct coloured cloth on table
- Entrance/Exit music. Powerpoint – 1 per week.
- Lighting of the candle.

Any or all of the following reflections could be used alongside the lighting of the candle and as you watch its flame burn. The use of candles as part of a prayerful meditation like this is very powerful and children just like adults will respond to the quietening effect that the candle flame brings. Each reflection opens up a whole area of wondering and can be a stimulus for prayer. In the silence that follows each thought give space for the children to pray quietly and/or use the short prayer suggestions below.

1. A candle cannot light itself. It needs to receive light from another.

Father God, thank you for the light that Jesus brings to us and the light we can pass on to others.

2. A candle when lit can give away its light without losing the light it has.

(perhaps you could demonstrate this by lighting a small tea light from the central candle)

Father God, thank you that you give us so much love that we can give away love to others without losing what we already have

3. A candle burns as bright when it is new, as when there is only a small amount of the original candle left.

(perhaps you can demonstrate this by lighting another pillar candle that is not as tall because it has already burned lower)

Father God, thank you that whatever age we are, we can still be used by you to be a light for you to each other

4. A candle's light is sensitive, reacting to the slightest movement of the air around it.

(you could demonstrate this by blowing gently - though beware, this will encourage the children to do the same and maybe less gently!)

Father God, thank you that you pick up every little thought and feeling that we have because you care about us. Help us to be sensitive and kind to others.

5. A candle's light is the same whatever the size, shape or colour of the candle.

(introduce some other candles, of different shapes and colours)

Father God, thank you that we all matter to you and are of equal value to you even though we are each very different. Help us to see the light of your love burning in everyone we meet.

6. A candle's light is designed to be seen and is best placed high up so that it can give light to all; it is not for hiding away.

(demonstrate this by carefully lifting up the pillar candle higher)

Father God, help us not to hide our light away, keeping it to ourselves. You want us to be lights that bring light to as many people as possible

7. A candle's flame burns upward while it sheds its light outward.

Father God, help us to put you first every day and in every situation so the light from our flame grows tall, sending out more light to others

8. Unless the candle's light is passed on, that light dies when the candle itself comes to an end.

(light some more tea lights from the central candle, maybe one for each child in the circle. Watch how the light grows bigger and bigger, all from the one light)

Father God, you wanted your light to be passed on to others. You are the light of the world and you call us to be lights to the world

9. At the heart of the candle's light there is a death happening, as the wick is burnt up and the wax around it melts and evaporates; just as the light of Christ came only from the death of Jesus on the cross.

Father God, thank you for sending Jesus to die for us on the cross so that we can be forgiven and come to share in your light

Suggested Readings:

Jesus said: I am the light of the world. Follow me and you won't be walking in the dark. You will have the light that gives life. John 8:12

Jesus said: You are like light for the whole world. No one would light a lamp and put it under a clay pot. A lamp is placed on a lamp stand, where it can give light to everyone in the house. Make your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16

- All assemblies should offer opportunity to consider religion; with a predominant emphasis on Christianity.
- End of assembly prayer. This may be read by a child or the adult leading the assembly. You may also wish to precede this with an opportunity for reflection e.g. (Teacher):

"I want you to think for a moment about something that you are worried about and give this thought to God" (wait a while).

"Now think about somebody else in your class and what they may be worried about. Give these worries to God and pray for them in your heart" (wait a while).

"Take the last few moments to thank God for something. This could be something you have learned today, or an interest that you have, or anything else that comes to mind" (wait a while).

10. When eventually the candle or candles are snuffed out, draw the group's attention to the spreading smoke, which like incense fills the room. This is even more powerful if it is a perfumed candle. It may be helpful to liken this to the invisible presence of Jesus that goes off with us everywhere, even when we cannot see a candle burning to remind us he is there.

Father God, thank you that even when we cannot see you, you are still with us. May your invisible light shine brightly in and through us wherever we go in the days ahead.