



Collective Worship Policy

St Faiths' VC C of E Primary School

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Policy for Collective Worship

Introduction

This policy has been written by the subject leader for Religious Education, including staff and governors, and follows advice given from the Diocese. It explains the policy for Collective Worship at this school and how we interpret the legislation set out by the government.

The legal requirements for Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Act stated that:

- All pupils must take part in a collective act of worship every day.
- The act of Collective Worship may be as a whole school or in different age groupings.
- Collective Worship may happen at any time of the school day.
- Collective Worship must take place on school premises, unless alternative arrangements for worship elsewhere have been made. e.g. the local church.
- The head teacher is responsible for ensuring the legal requirements for Collective Worship are met.
- The content of Collective Worship is to be determined by governing bodies in accordance with staff collectively.
- All staff, including the Headteacher, have the legal right to withdraw from the Act of Collective Worship. The Headteacher remains responsible for finding someone suitable to organise and lead the acts of worship.
- All parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship, wholly or partially. The school's responsibility for the child's health and safety is still paramount.

The DFE circular 1/94 adds to the legal requirements of the Education Act although these are not an authoritative legal interpretation; this would be a matter for the courts. The booklet 'Towards Realism and Consensus' explains the Norfolk view on Collective Worship and seeks to put the legal requirements into perspective and enable all schools to fulfil the law in a way that is suitable for all pupils and in a way that adds to their overall development.

The approach to Collective Worship at St Faiths' VC C of E Primary School.

The acts of Collective Worship are planned to give pupils a variety of experiences to enable them to reflect on, and respond to, things which we, as a school community, believe are important. These experiences will include:

- The telling of appropriate stories (Biblical, moral, multi-cultural)
- Drama/ mime
- Dance
- Poetry
- Music
- Multi-media programmes

The value of Collective Worship at St Faiths' VC C of E Primary School

The government requires all schools to provide an act of Collective Worship. At St Faiths' VC C of E Primary School, we acknowledge that our school community is not a 'worshipping community' in the same sense as a local church. We provide daily acts of Collective Worship which we believe help children understand some of the features of worship in a believing Christian community.

The law requires us to provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God as part of our Collective Worship. We therefore try to provide an opportunity to respond in the form of a time of quiet reflection at some point in each act of Collective Worship. This time may involve spoken prayers but more often a time for each pupil and adult present to be quiet and think about what they have heard; this will provide opportunity for each to worship God if they should wish to do so.

The organisation of Collective Worship at St Faiths' VC C of E Primary School

Collective acts of worship follow a yearly rolling programme of Christian themes based on the school's chosen Christian and Life values, supported by the 'Values for Life' scheme of work. Staff will supplement this scheme with their own or other published materials which uphold the theme and support the aims of the school. Allowances are made for marking festivals like Saints Days, Harvest, etc. or for covering other newsworthy events. The theme for the half term is displayed in the hall on our Collective Worship board.

An Act of Worship, led by the incumbent, is held weekly in the school hall. The church is also used at other key times e.g. at Christmas, Easter and Harvest. The children are encouraged to lead prayers and actively participate in Collective Worship wherever possible.

Resources for Collective Worship

These are available in the hall, online and from the Head of School who co-ordinates Collective Worship. We use a wide range of material including the internet, photographs, programme extracts and interactive whiteboards.

Withdrawal

Parents may ask for their child to be totally or partially withdrawn from Collective Worship in accordance with the Education Act. They are advised of this right in the School brochure and asked to contact the Head of School to make arrangements. No reasons have to be given but discussion with parents over the issues concerning withdrawal are recommended in Circular 1/94. No pupils are currently withdrawn from Collective Worship at St Faiths' VC C of E Primary School.

SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools)

In VC schools like St Faiths' VC C of E Primary School, Collective Worship will be inspected on a regular basis through a Section 48 inspection. It is the responsibility of the governors to organise this in liaison with the Headteacher. The Diocese offers assistance and support with the arrangements.

Reviewed

Next Review due

Signed : **Date :**