

Lewknor C of E School Collective Worship Policy

April 2016 – Review April 2019

Introduction

At Lewknor Church of England Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life.

Everyone Matters'

As a church school we want our children to have the opportunity to learn to worship through distinctively Christian worship and to grow in their understanding of God and of themselves. We believe that at its heart our worship should provide an opportunity for pupils and staff to come together to learn, reflect and pray, sing, share and communicate their joys and sorrows with one another and with God. The worship is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school: *wisdom, friendship and integrity*.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

Aims and Objectives

At Lewknor Church of England Primary School we always seek to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school and its care for all who work here. Children are helped to understand the meaning of Christian worship and we hope that believers will be able to share in it and that others of no faith will reach the 'threshold of worship'.

Our central aims of collective worship are to:

- Provide pupils with the opportunity for spiritual reflection and development with the choice of making a personal and private response.
- Foster the values of respect, love and responsibility and bring them to the forefront, giving everyone the chance to reflect on what is important beyond the here and now.
- Encourage pupil participation.
- Promote collective worship as a special time in the daily life of the school.
- Provide collective worship which reflects the broad traditions of the Christian Church.
- Represent and recognise the diversity of belief and practice within the worship.
- Recognise, affirm, celebrate and reinforce the values and Christian ethos of the school family.
- Assist pupils to make sense of the world in which they live and foster a sense of awe and wonder.
- Teach pupils as far as possible, to appreciate and respect their own cultural traditions and the variety and richness of others.
- Provide experiences that can lead to reflection and thought and provide an atmosphere of calm and quietness in which the children can reflect.
- Help children to share joys, worries and ideas which are meaningful and significant to them, within our caring school community.

- Include parents, where possible, in our worship, particularly in celebrations and class sharing assemblies.
- Use the seasons and festivals of the Christian year.
- Raise aspirations of individuals and the school community.
- Give an opportunity to acquire a secure knowledge of the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible.
- Understand, celebrate and develop children's knowledge of Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and religious festivals in the Anglican Church's year.
- Appreciate that people, cultures and beliefs differ and to demonstrate respect, tolerance and generosity towards them.
- Develop a caring attitude to others and a sense of community and loyalty.
- Provide opportunities for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate collective worship.
- Invite clergy of the parish, other lay members of the parish and other Christian leaders in the community [as are acceptable to the parish church] to lead worship.
- Provide an opportunity to bring before God in prayer personal needs and those of others.
- Encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues.
- Provide memorable and enjoyable experiences.
- Celebrate difference and diversity.
- Develop a sense of community within the school and of being part of a wider community.

We aim to promote collective acts of worship, which are rich, meaningful experiences that are appropriate and significant to the pupil's needs, age, development and interest by:

- Arranging worship at different places when possible, different times with different people and groupings, involving all members of the school community at some time.
- Planning and linking themes which focus on a particular idea/concept, i.e. the liturgical year, festivals and celebrations, within Christian and other faith traditions as well as our distinctive Christian values of love, respect and responsibility as well as in cooperating the school values of wisdom, friendship and integrity and celebrating achievements, good work and behaviour.
- Using a wide range of resources, devotional aids, artefacts (from religious and secular sources), music, art, drama and external speakers to engage children's interest.
- Encouraging children to participate and experience different styles of worship, e.g. prayer, praise, silence, rituals, and become familiar with the language of worship, Biblical readings and liturgy.
- Providing opportunities for pupils to reflect, contemplate on their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using the centrality of prayer – personal silent prayer, personal shared prayers, collective prayers, writing prayers.
- Involving pupils and members of the wider community to participate in collective worship.
- Presenting and creating displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas, thoughts and questions.

Acts of Collective Worship are made distinctive through:-

- Gathering: Making special and significant this part of the day through appropriate symbol and ceremony.
- Engaging: Using the best available techniques to stimulate interest in the content.

- **Responding:** Ensuring there is time and opportunity for individual, group reflection and thought, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways.
- **Sending:** Summarising the worship in a meaningful short message used to create an opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas covered and to conclude the worship.

Organisation

Collective worship takes place in different forms every day at Lewknor. On Monday morning the whole school worships together in the church. On Tuesday and Wednesday class worship sessions are held in the classrooms, outside or in the church. On Thursday the schools joins together once again to share prayers and songs in the church. On Friday the school worships together in the church and celebrates its achievements throughout the week. Worship usually lasts 20-30 minutes but the length of collective worship may vary.

The following on-going daily pattern is generally followed:

- Planning collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation.
- Good worship happens where children are active participants, not passive spectators and this includes being involved in the planning, delivery and evaluation.
- In this way, the act of collective worship becomes their own, rather than something that is 'done to them'.
- Collective worship is planned around the school's three core values, (wisdom, friendship and integrity) which provide a structure for planning. An overarching theme is chosen for each term and weekly themes for each half term are developed from this and presented in a variety of ways.
- Collective worship should be an intentional learning experience like any other part of the curriculum. Therefore it requires careful planning, thorough preparation, professional execution, resourcing and evaluation. This can also include participation in community celebrations in the local church.
- The content of collective worship should be a development of the topic covered during the Monday key stage act of worship. The methodology of collective worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective.

This will mean that by the end of the term, children will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the headteacher and R.E/Worship coordinator by:

- Written observations, checking that practice matches planning.
- Observing children's attentiveness and level of interest.
- Conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback.
- Seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors and visitors.
- Holding discussions with colleagues.

The information gathered will be analysed in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the collective worship at least annually.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

A daily act of collective worship is held for all children regardless of their background of culture or religion. Every effort is made by the school to involve all children unless withdrawn by their parents in accordance with the law.

Responsibilities

It is the ultimate responsibility of the headteacher and governing body of a school to ensure a daily act of collective worship takes place. At Lewknor Church of England Primary School the headteacher and the RE coordinator plan themes, invite and liaise with visiting speakers, and monitor and evaluate collective worship.

Church Links

Lewknor Church of England Primary School actively encourages strong links with St Margaret's Church and Rev. Peter Waterson leads collective worship every term. The school aims to participate in regular church services and these include Christmas, Harvest and Easter services.

Conclusion

At Lewknor C of E Primary School, collective worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take an active part in a high quality daily act of collective worship. Worship may contain many elements but at Lewknor we seek to specifically ensure that the act of collective worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter.