

KIRKBY MALZEARD CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy Title: Collective Worship Policy

Contact Person: Andrea Peacock/Gemma Pawson

Rationale

Kirkby Malzeard School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School where the Christian Ethos is central to the life of the school community. We recognise collective worship as a highly valued time during our busy school day where we gather together to praise God, refreshing and inspiring our school community. It is a time to breathe and connect with ourselves, each other, our ethos and our faith. It is the heartbeat of our school. Our Christian values of love, peace, kindness and patience are built into our ethos and are at the heart of our acts of 'Collective Worship'.

Our school is a place of inspiration allowing children to develop their knowledge in a safe and caring environment. We set the foundation for a lifetime of achievement, where every child is encouraged to do their best and contribute to their own learning goals. The staff team are there to help build a strong solid footing on which pupils can succeed in all aspects, working with guidance to develop and expand their own education. Collective worship involves our whole school community coming together to reflect and inspire.

Our ethos builds upon our Christian values of love, peace, kindness & patience to ensure

CARE

Confident & happy learners

All pupils successful

Responsible citizens

Equipped with skills for life

All pupils develop a love of learning which benefits them now and throughout their lives.

'Shine like stars in the sky...' Philippians 2:15

Collective worship in our school fulfils the legal requirements of the Education Reform Act (E.R.A.) 1988 for Church of England Voluntary Controlled schools. Worship is in accordance with our mission statement and reflects the principles and practices of the Church of England.

Aims and purpose

- Worship will be meaningful and educational for our children.
- Worship will respect the integrity of all of our school family and the Christian foundation of our school.

Throughout a child's time in our school they will, through collective worship:

- encounter a sense of occasion through awe, wonder and respect
- experience of a sense of community
- explore a time for stillness, reflection and prayer
- develop a sense of when to listen and when to be silent
- be encouraged to think reflectively
- experience special events in the Christian calendar
- appreciate the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and belief
- take part and share in performances of special services of worship in church
- make a valued link with the school church and wider community
- receive opportunities to sing and enjoy music

- understand prayer and religious belief
- have opportunities provided for their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- celebrate difference and diversity
- be introduced to symbols used in worship
- experience of a variety of styles and forms involved in the delivery of worship
- celebrate achievements and special occasions in respect of individuals, the school and wider community
- receive opportunities to take an active role in worship e.g. lead prayers, play instruments, organise music
- receive opportunities to wonder about the world, continuing to reflect after an act of worship, spurring them into practical action or continued thought

Over time our acts of collective worship will reflect and fulfil these aims, it is not intended that one single act will reflect every aim.

The Collective Worship session

Acts of Collective Worship are invitational, inclusive and inspiring. Worship in our school takes different forms and sometimes takes place outside our school buildings.

There is a whole school daily collective worship session.

Monday 1.10pm-1.30pm	Mid-week 30 minutes			Friday (3pm-3.30pm)
Introduce the main theme for the week	Singing Praise exploring the themes for the week through song and music	Psalm Worship exploring and deepening our understanding of the week's theme.	Practical Class Worship of the main theme for the week. Led by the children with sensitive support as needed by other members of the school community (as appropriate).	Celebration Worship and continued thought/wonderings Family, friends and members of the school and wider community are invited to attend, celebrate and reflect

Music is used at the start and close of worship and a candle is lit. Other symbols are used as appropriate, such as psalm stones, prayer rocks, feeling crosses, fabric and singing bowls.

We follow a **Gather – Engage – Respond - Send** principle for all acts of collective worship.

The church year is reflected in the collective worship timetable. The Holy Trinity is clearly considered in our planning - the autumn term is dedicated to reflection of 'The Father', spring term 'The Son' and the summer term the 'Holy Spirit'.

Our worship reflects our whole school, often building and inspiring topics within the curriculum, particularly PSHE and SEAL. Worship reflects the achievements and interests of the whole school community. Children raise issues that are important to them and are keen to discuss reflect and act upon their ideas.

Children often play musical instruments and read and share their own work, such as prayers, stories and art work. Celebrating our children's physical, social and emotional achievements, skills and talents is the 'heartbeat' of our school and makes our school special.

Pupil voice is collected as a part of acts of collective worship and is celebrated in lap learning books, journals and working walls.

Collective worship is led by staff, pupils, community members, local clergy and members of local community groups.

The head teacher- Mrs Peacock (supported by Mrs Pawson) – is responsible, under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, for arranging the daily act of worship after consultation with the governing body. Collective worship at Kirkby Malzeard CE School is mainly of a broadly Christian character. Forward planning will identify themes, sometimes linked to SEAL objectives and celebrations of other faiths. Members of the clergy conduct collective worship in school, as do other carefully chosen adults. The children attend the church for start of term services, harvest festivals, Christmas carol services and other special events.

Other opportunities for worship

Children have reflection areas in their classrooms.

There is an interactive prayer station in the main school hall in addition to the main worship table (altar).

Seasons of advent and lent are recognised in a range of ways through craft days, advent challenges and acts of reflection. This gives children the opportunity to reflect deeply whilst working creatively. 'Messy Church' sessions also creatively engage children in worship and include the wider church community.

The Sensory Garden provides time for stillness, reflection and thought. We have registered our school as a 'Prayer Space' with Prayer Spaces for Schools and will continue to develop this concept.

Children reflect and give thanks through grace and prayer before lunch and at the end of the school day. Children have led acts of worship at Sunday services at St Andrews Church. We share key events (Start of Term Service, Harvest, Candlemas, Advent, Christmas, Easter) through a service held at St Andrew's Church.

Inclusion

In our school we reflect, share and act on things that are important and meaningful in the lives of our children and community. We believe that self-esteem and confidence are at the root of learning. Children need to feel safe and happy in order to learn and achieve their full potential; our collective worship aims to embed safe practices, happiness, self-confidence and self-esteem. Fundamental British values, our school ethos and Christian values are embedded across all areas of the curriculum including collective worship. In God's eyes we are all God's children whatever a person's gender, ethnicity, physical or mental ability and this is reflected in all that we do at Kirkby Malzeard Primary School.

Monitoring, evaluation & review

The quality of collective worship is evaluated as any other area of the curriculum is. This includes the observation of collective worship by staff and governors.

The staff, foundation governors and children are included in the evaluation process. This may take the form of an evaluation form for adults or discussion with groups of children e.g. school council, ambassadors, focus groups etc.

Right to withdrawal

Collective worship is a special time and as such we expect all children to take part, however parents can request to withdraw their child.

Under the terms of the Education Act 1944 (Section 25) parents may withdraw a child from part or all of the religious instruction or worship of the school.

School will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the time.

Updated Oct 2018 following review of Ethos Sept 2018 – Reviewed by HT/Collective Worship Lead/Foundation Governor