

Fylingdales C of E VC Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

Collective Worship at Fylingdales C of E VC Primary School is an affirmation and celebration of the values and ethos of the school. Taking part in acts of worship with God as the focus encourages a sense of unity and identity both among pupils, staff, governors and parents and it is intended that there should be opportunity for all to contribute at some time. This necessitates there should be a relationship of trust between all concerned, an atmosphere where individual beliefs are welcomed and respected.

Statutory Requirements

Collective Worship at Fylingdales complies with the legal requirements as set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act. We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. This worship takes place at different times and in different ways as described below. We also acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering but the difference between the two is understood.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of Our School

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who

share in it:

- those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- those for whom school may be their first and only experience of worship activity
- those from other Christian traditions – or none
- those from other faith backgrounds.

Collective Worship will be an educational activity/experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Worship at Fylingdales School is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of School life and central to the Anglican tradition. Its importance is reflected in the provision of a designated reflective space within the building and classrooms.

Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our School aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- to contemplate something of the mystery of God
- to reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- to explore pupils' own beliefs
- to respond to and celebrate life
- to experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- to develop a common ethos and shared values
- to enrich religious experience
- to grow in liturgical understanding and development
- to reinforce positive attitudes
- to participate fully
- to take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'.

Principles

All acts of worship at Fylingdales School will:

- be underpinned by prayer either formal or spontaneous
- give honour and glory to God
- be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the School and its Anglican character
- give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church. In order to do this, celebrations will be short and appropriately paced, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

How Collective Worship is Organised at Fylingdales School

In planning our worship, we recognise the different developmental needs of our children. Therefore, collective worship takes place daily in whole school or class groups. It may be led by pupils, headteacher, staff, clergy or other visitors to the School. There is currently a two-year cycle of themes which is followed by all who lead collective worship.

Monday: 2.50 – 3:10 Whole School Worship led by Head Teacher

Tuesday: 10.15- 10.35 am Visitor from the clergy into school

Wednesday: 10:15 – 10:30. Whole school Worship led by member of staff or pupils

Thursday: 2.50 – 3:10 Thursday Prayers guided by a member of staff.

Friday: 9.00 – 9.20 Whole School Assembly (usually led by the Head Teacher, including an act of Worship). This time is often used as a celebration assembly to celebrate the work and positivity of the children in school, where parents are invited in to share our celebrations.

When planning collective worship we try to provide opportunities for pupils to reflect on spiritual issues and employ many devices to explore our faith in a creative manner. To this end we may use song, dance, photography, silence, light, puppets music and many other media to add to the richness of the experience.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective worship by pupils, staff, parents and governors is monitored and evaluated. The expressed views form part of our future planning.

Inclusiveness

The importance of the schools Anglican Foundation in determining the ethos is made clear to prospective parents when they are shown around the school.

Pupil Withdrawal

The right to withdraw pupils from worship is available to all parents. If parents finally decide to take this option for their child, we would make sure the pupil is adequately supervised and have something 'purposeful' to do.

Staff

It is recognised that there may be a range of opinion among the teaching Staff at Fylingdales and those who lead collective worship are encouraged to do so in ways that allow everyone present to take part with integrity.

Educational Outcomes

- Time for reflection about God's word and the mystery of His being.
- An understanding of the Anglican principles on which our worship is based.
- Pupils should be led towards a deeper understanding of the spiritual dimension in their lives.
- Opportunity to explore Christian values for life; Courage, Creativity, Peace, Trust, Forgiveness, Justice, Thankfulness, Compassion, Friendship, Hope, Truthfulness, Humility, Generosity, Respect and Reverence, Wisdom, Perseverance, Service, Responsibility
- Development of a sense of self-worth.
- Listening to others and exchanging views.
- A respect for the rights and beliefs of others.
- Recognition and celebration of the values and beliefs of Christian Faith and those of the wider community.

Reviewed: November 2016

To be reviewed: November 2018

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Guidelines for School Visits for Collective Worship & Class Lessons

It is helpful if visitors

- are familiar with the School and class e.g. through a prior visit
- are clear about their brief and able to speak to it
- have prepared their material thoroughly
- have asked for any required visual aids beforehand
- arrive promptly.

It is helpful if the Teacher/Head Teacher

- has met the visitors in order to plan the lesson/act of worship
- has provided the visitors with a clear brief, either written or oral, with an idea of the number, age and ability of pupils in the class or group they are visiting
- has given the visitors directions to the school, the school's telephone number, details of resources and equipment available to them and offer hospitality
- has discussed arrangement of the working space e.g. furniture, tables for artifacts, television, etc.
- has ensured the equipment requested is available and working
- is aware of demands on the visitors (e.g. whether they have taken time off work, etc.)
- has an alternate act of worship/ lesson prepared in case of an emergency
- gives positive, honest feed back
- thanks the visitor for visiting.

It is helpful if the pupils

- know who the visitors are and aware of their background
- understand the purpose of the visit
- are prepared to ask questions if require
- are briefed to welcome the visitor and act as host/hostess if necessary