

St John's CE First School Bishops Wood

'I will give thanks to you because I have been so amazingly and miraculously made' (Psalm 139: 13-14)

Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the worship.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church using the Roots and Fruits as a guide. However, we conduct our worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.3 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold worship that reflects other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school.

3.2 We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

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- 3.3 The headteacher, members of the teaching staff, and local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups, as well as pupils, conduct collective worship.
- 3.4 We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We plan our worship as part of a series of themes in advance of the day they take place.

Our weekly Celebration Worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. The Celebration Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. This plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. St John's CE First School is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children in Celebration worship.

4 Right of withdrawal

- 4.1 We expect all children to attend worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- 4.2 The headteacher keeps a record of children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

- 5.1 Foundation forum members monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The members concerned liaise with the Headteacher before reporting to the Trustees on Religious Education and collective worship.