

Roberttown CE (vc) J & I Collective Worship Policy



Approved by: Governing Body Standards Committee

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Roberttown CE (vc) J&I School

Collective Worship Policy



Introduction

Roberttown J & I School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled school, committed to fostering and encouraging Christian principles and values. We are proud to be a church school, but we are equally proud that we welcome into our school family children from all faiths, or none. We value the richness and diversity this brings us.

At Roberttown School we believe that:

“CW develops pupils spiritually, morally, socially and culturally. It should draw pupils’ attention to the values the school wishes to develop both as a body and in each individual. Collective worship is about the growth of the person, their character and social outlook, whatever their academic aptitudes”.(NATRE 2021)

“Spiritual development relates to that inner aspect of life through which pupils acquire insights into their personal experience, which are of enduring worth.”

(Feeding Minds and Touching Hearts – Spiritual Development in the Primary School)

and that:

“Worship helps and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today’s world” (SIAMS evaluation schedule: The Church Of England Education Office)

We believe that Collective Worship is central to our school day and that we have many practices which foster and develop our children’s Christian education and development of their spirituality. We recognise the need for considered refinement and constantly strive for the highest standards in our worship planning and implementation.

Aims

At Roberttown School we aim to:

- promote Christian principles and values within an environment which welcomes and accepts all individuals, developing positive attitudes and tolerance
- 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, given the Christian ethos of the school, to appreciate and respect their own cultural traditions and the variety and richness of others
- provide experiences that can lead to reflection and thought
- 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
- recognise that the children and members of the school community will be at different stages of spiritual development and will respond and participate in a way which is appropriate to their own needs
- to include parents, where possible, in our worship, particularly in the Celebration and Class Collective Worship
- use seating arrangements as appropriate for that given Collective Worship and vary these as necessary

- enter Collective Worship in a calm, quiet, thoughtful and receptive manner, to sit down and listen to the music playing in preparation for the worship to come
- invite people to pray with us in an open and accepting manner
- provide time for meditation/ reflection during the worship and after prayer
- use the Lord's Prayer, the Peace and the School Prayer
- use stimulus wherever possible, be it visual, auditory, etc
- encourage sharing/ participation of all during the Collective Worship – children and adults
- use a range of different people to lead the Collective Worship, including members of our own Senior Leadership Team, other members of staff and visitors from various churches and religious communities in the local area. We work to include a range of people because we recognise that each person gives their own angle a subject, can explain concepts in different ways, leads with their own style of spiritual thoughtfulness or lively enthusiasm and works from their own unique previous experience
- discourage interruptions, for example people walking through the hall unnecessarily, children asking to go to the toilet, lines of children having to be moved wherever possible, etc.

Statutory Requirements

- The 1998 Education Reform Act required that all registered pupils attending a maintained School should take part in daily Collective Worship.
- Worship is to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character reflecting the broad traditions of Christian beliefs and at the same time implying that non-Christian elements may be included as appropriate to age, background and aptitudes of children.
- The Headteacher should ensure that a record is kept of Collective Worship. Parents have a right to withdraw their child from all or part of Collective Worship.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Roberttown School we seek to be inclusive, however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. We expect that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Headteacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

Parents and carers are made aware of their right of withdrawal through the school prospectus which is available on the school website.

All staff, including the Headteacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Roberttown school.

This right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies.

Overall Planning and Themes

Overall planning for Collective Worship is the responsibility of the Collective Worship co-ordinator. Worship may take a wide variety of forms but will always strive to be reflective of our school ethos.

Planning also reflects recent events, results of reviews and evaluations and ideas from the Collective Worship Planning Group.

Collective Worship planning incorporates Christian themes and in particular our school values of:

Forgiveness

Friendship

Thankfulness
Endurance

Trust
Peace

Our Collective Worship will reflect our school ethos story of the Good Samaritan.

The Collective Worship Planning Group meets each term and consists of the Headteacher and Collective Worship Coordinator and a minimum of two children from each Years 1 to 6 and the local clergy. The Group reflects on the Collective Worship for the previous term and plans in outline for the next term. The Group also considers the ways in which worship is presented.

Our Collective Worship over each week and throughout the school year will:

- provide educational worth - by giving pupils knowledge and insights into the values and beliefs of the major world faiths with a clear emphasis on Christianity
- be appropriate to age and ability
- be appropriate in setting and duration
- offer an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks, for which we feel justifiably proud of our Celebration Collective Worship
- provide a richness and variety of approaches whenever possible
- provide experience of different forms of Christian worship
- be well planned and prepared for
- be reflective of the whole school community

Weekly Plan for Collective Worship	
Monday	Whole school CW led by Headteacher
Tuesday	Whole school led by Local Clergy/ Visitor/ SLT
Wednesday	Praise CW
Thursday	Class CW: led by classes and pupil groups
Friday	Celebration Collective Worship

N.B. This timetable is not applicable to the Reception children, who, as a part of Foundation Stage, have their own time of reflection and worship in daily 'Candle Time'.

Inclusion

At Roberttown we aim to provide Collective Worship which reflects the range of Christian denominations and captures the imagination of all children, regardless of race, creed, gender, age or ability and actively involves all pupils.

Spiritual Development - thinking about God.

We aim to:

- help the children to develop a greater sense of themselves, each other and the wider world, reflecting upon the value, purpose and meaning of things
- enable them to develop a system of values and beliefs for themselves and respect for those of others
- experience times of quiet and stillness as a contrast to the activity which often characterises a typical school day
- recognise and celebrate the diversity of experiences, cultures, backgrounds, faiths in school
- develop a growing sense of awe and wonder

- provide opportunities to recognise, reflect and respond to the fundamental questions of life.

Moral Development

It is important to us that children are given opportunities to develop a set of values through a mutually agreed class and school code, based on Christian values. Also that they are encouraged to develop a sense of right and wrong, taking responsibility for their own actions and beginning to understand the consequences of choices made. Collective Worship contributes to the moral development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- reflect on matters concerning right and wrong
- hear about incidents in which, and people in whom, goodness or right are exemplified;
- learn about religious and other teachings concerning right and wrong.

Social Development

Children are encouraged to develop an awareness of their own and others self-esteem. We aim to develop belonging, togetherness, sensitivity, truthfulness, integrity and belief in equality by working together within and for the School Family. Collective Worship contributes to the social development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- gather with others for a common purpose;
- share times of joy and times of sadness with others; and
- learn how to behave appropriately within a specific social setting
- discuss the values and vision within our school.

Cultural Development

Children are encouraged to develop an awareness of Christian festivals and those of other faiths to promote strong community cohesion through greater understanding, tolerance and respect of others. Children are encouraged to learn more about their own, local and national cultural heritage. Collective Worship contributes to the cultural development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- hear music from a range of times, places and cultures
- reflect upon ideas concerning beauty and that which is pleasing to the eye and ear; and
- appreciate the range of talents and gifts found within the school community and beyond
- celebrate different cultural groups, the different celebrations and festivals throughout the year
- foster an appreciation of different religions and cultures that make up our school and local community.

Recording, Evaluating, Reviewing

Classes are asked to evaluate acts of Collective Worship and these evaluations help to shape and develop our practice. The evaluations are collected in our school CW Book.

Records are collated by the Headteacher and Collective Worship Coordinator. These, along with the evaluations feed into the Collective Worship Planning Meetings and provide information on activities and approaches which have been used; give feedback on pupil response; identify changes which have been made to initial planning; assist in the review of and provision for future planning; enable the Headteacher and Governing Body to ensure that legal requirements are being met.

In reviewing Collective Worship we need to ensure that it is child centred and has, as far as possible, provided an opportunity for participants to worship or to approach the ‘threshold of worship’.

This policy will be reviewed as part of our rolling programme of policy review.

APPENDIX 1- Ideas for the setting for Collective Worship

In setting the atmosphere for worship, it should:

- be child centred
- create a warm and welcoming room
- use paintings, artefacts, objects, music and / or other sounds
- use thoughtful appropriate seating arrangements
- have considered the lighting effects
- make use of pleasant scents and natural objects
- create a special mood by using music, poetry, recitation or chant
- avoid negative messages
- make use of special visitors

Acts of worship may include:

- music
- hymns
- songs
- prayer
- meditation/reflection
- silence
- scripture
- story
- drama
- artefacts
- sharing/participation
- self examination
- sharing an idea with a partner
- listening
- audio/visual input
- giving and / or receiving
- candle time