

Parrett and Axe CE VA Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

This policy has been drawn up by the governors of the school in consultation with the Beaminster Area Team Ministry, the Head Teacher, the R.E. co-ordinator and other members of the staff team.

Legal Requirements

Parrett and Axe is a VA Church of England Primary School. As such it has a Trust Deed which states that worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England'. In accordance with legal requirements (School Standards & Framework Act 1998) an act of collective worship, taking account of the age, aptitude and background of pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents.

In our school, members of staff are expected to attend the act of collective worship

Aims

At Parrett and Axe C.E. V.A. Primary School Collective Worship aims to:

- strengthen and support the school community and celebrate each unique individual member made in the image of God
- give expression to, reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- allow reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
- contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
- foster and inspire a concern for the needs of others - a recognition of the vulnerability of self and others
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to:
 - praise and reach out to God
 - experience stillness and quiet
 - respond to Christian language and symbolism
 - experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include: praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others and quiet reflection
 - begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship and to
 - provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future

Organisation

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship. Worship takes place immediately after registration on every day except Friday. On Fridays we hold Worship at 2:40 pm which enables parents and Governors to join us to celebrate the achievements of the previous week as a whole school family.

Structure

Foundation Stage and Key Stage One:

Monday	Whole School	Hall
Tuesday	Class	Classrooms
Wednesday	Whole School	Hall
Thursday	Class	Classrooms
Friday	Whole School	Hall

Key Stage Two:

Monday	Whole School	Hall
Tuesday	Key Stage	Hall
Wednesday	Whole School	Hall
Thursday	Key Stage	Hall- Worship through singing
Friday	Whole School	Hall

We conduct Worship in a dignified and respectful way. We explain to the children that Worship 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, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using a variety of music, candles and other resources to focus the attention of the children. Candle lighters are nominated from every year group in turn on a weekly rota. The two selected children also lead the response which signals the start of each act of Worship.

Our Worship themes are drawn from the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of Collective Worship are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum, for example the Jigsaw Project.

Records of the content of each act of Worship and separate Collective Worship Evaluation documents by adults and pupils are kept in the Worship File.

Our Worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in Worship by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Volunteer Worship Monitors, who change each half-term, assist the leaders of Worship in preparing the Hall and in conducting the service.

Worship provides an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children and adults are valued, and all achievements are recognised. Parrett and Axe School is a successful school, and we are proud to celebrate the successes of all of our children in our Worship.

Governors and parents are warmly welcomed to attend any acts of Worship.

Monitoring and review

Monitoring the policy and practice of Collective Worship is the role of a named Governor who will liaise regularly with the Head Teacher and attend planning meetings. This link enables us to regularly review our provision and to evaluate progress made in this area of our school life.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from Worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Reviewed by Curriculum Committee: 08.06.15

Adopted by Full Governing Body: 13.07.15

Review Date: June 2016