

St Helena's Church of England Primary School

Valuing Compassion, Community, Endurance, Friendship, Hope, Thankfulness, Wisdom and Respect

The Governors are mindful of their responsibilities for Collective Worship in school and quote the following from the National Society as being the purpose of it:

"The daily act of collective worship required by law in the school shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England and the basic curriculum required by law in the school shall include religious education consistent with the faith of the Church of England" and " Use should be made, within the provisions of the Education Acts for the time being in force, of the parish church or other Church of England place of worship, both for occasional acts of collective worship and for religious education."

The Nature of Collective Worship in St Helena's School

Collective worship in our school is the school community coming together in an act of Christian worship.

Aims.

Collective worship in school aims to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.

The basic elements of worship include:

a sense of mystery, awe and wonder;

celebration;

quiet and silent thought;

insights into art, literature, poetry, music;

discovery of personal reactions of joy, sorrow, anger, fear;

a search for the purpose and meaning of life;

humility and the recognition of our needs and those of others.

Character

Each act of worship will:

be prayerful;

contain a strong emphasis on symbolism;

be joyful;

be positive;

express the Christian ethos -morally, spiritually and culturally.

Content

A variety of stimuli will be used which are relevant to the material being presented as part of the theme. They might include: stories; poetry; art; drama; song; objects, etc.

Each act of collective worship will include music to enter and leave by and a hymn, material relevant to the chosen theme, a prayer - also relevant to the theme, and/or the Lord's Prayer. There will be frequent opportunities for children to reflect on what has been said or what has been seen, although this may not always take place as a matter of course during each service. Children are constantly encouraged to reflect on their own experiences and consider the consequences of their actions especially with regard to their effect on others.

Worship is mainly Christian and is based on our eight Christian values, but celebrates and discovers other religions, the natural world, human experiences and global issues. There is an inherent flexibility that allows for more immediate issues to be addressed that affect the school community or which offer opportunities to pursue the stated aims.

Frequency

The whole school will usually meet daily in the school hall. However, there will be times when acts of worship for the whole or part of the school will be held elsewhere, notably in a classroom or the church.

Acts of worship are conducted by all teaching staff, representatives of the Church and "Open the Book" congregation. Children will also be involved in leading services and prayers as will other visitors invited by the school for that purpose. (e.g. bishop visitor)

All children will normally (*) take part in a daily act of worship and will take part in worship at St. Helena's Church.

- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Staff may also withdraw if they wish.

This policy will be reviewed annually unless legislation or the Diocesan demand a review.