



C of E Primary School

Collective Worship and Assembly Policy
January 2011

At Surrey Hills C of E Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life and a means to develop the school values – CARE - Caring, Achieving, Respect and Enjoyment . Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement.

'Inspiring the Individual, Developing the Community'

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform

Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

Christian Values

Although difficult to define, we identify the values of forgiveness, fairness, respect and tolerance of others, integrity, compassion, honesty and self-worth. These values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

John 13:34-35

“...love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples”.

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection through the varied content of the assemblies.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children.
Our current schedule is as follows:

Westcott Site:

Monday : Whole school worship led by the Westcott Clergy Team
Tuesday: Worship through Song led by a Teacher
Wednesday: Whole school worship led by the Deputy Headteacher
Thursday: Whole school worship led by the Headteacher
Friday: Achievement Assembly led by the Headteacher or the Deputy Headteacher

Abinger Site:

Monday: Whole school worship led by the Headteacher, Revd Berry, Westcott Youth Worker or SEAL Co-ordinator.
Tuesday: Whole school worship led by the Deputy Headteacher or Revd Robson
Wednesday: Worship through Song led by Music Teacher
Thursday: Class worship and Birthday Celebration
Friday: Achievement Assembly led by the Headteacher

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship.

The assembly/worship should last approximately 15mins.

Planning, Content and Detail

The themes are based on the Christian 'The Values For Life' Scheme and there is a three year rolling Programme. We also reflect the Church calendar, our school ethos, SEAL and current events.

The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music and could come from a variety of cultures. The candles on the altar table are lit. The children are involved in the worship throughout and usually sing the hymn or song of the week. The worship finishes with a prayer.

The candles are then blown out before any messages are given. This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, extempore prayers, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of the whole school worship led by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher, a time of reflection and quiet is

encouraged by the lighting of candles. A cross is also displayed above or on the altar table.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by either an adult or child in each class. Teachers make an individual decision about whether to say a prayer with their class at the end of the school day.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may be used to portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

Visitors

Visitors to the school are welcomed to our Acts of Worship to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise.

This Policy will be reviewed in January 2012 so that we can reflect the needs of our growing school.