

# SCHOOL POLICY FOR WORSHIP

**Co-ordinator:**  
**Hazel Coleman**

**Buddy:**  
**Jean Bews**

**Date Adopted:**  
**Summer 2014**

**Review by**  
**Summer**  
**2018**

## How the Policy developed

This policy developed as a result of the whole staff curriculum rolling program review.

## How it relates to the School Development Plan

The Head, RE co-ordinator and buddy will monitor the policy.

R.E. was inspected under a Section 24 inspection in the Autumn term 2010 and was graded outstanding.

### Tasks

To introduce policy to staff.

### Action Group

Staff

### Timescale

Summer 2014

### Cost

To present policy to the Curriculum Committee.

Co-ordinator

Autumn 2014

To continue to increase resources across the school.

Co-ordinator

Ongoing

Within constraints of budget

To investigate and keep a record of Worship websites.

Co-ordinator  
Buddy

Ongoing

To create and monitor termly Worship rota.

## Intentions

- To adopt this whole school policy for Worship, ensuring continuity, progression and challenge between classes and key stages.
- To provide pupils with opportunities to learn about religious beliefs and practices, and to encourage pupils to express responses to these, applying them to human experience.
- To continue to acknowledge the value and importance of Worship throughout the whole school.
- To maintain a Christian ethos and links to the Church of England.

## Overview and Objectives

### OVERVIEW

- The law requires all schools to provide a daily, collective act of worship that is on most occasions wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature. It need not be held at the same time each day. In this school we will meet the requirements of the law in full.

- Where parents request it, their children will be withdrawn from the collective worship and alternative arrangements will be made.

## **OBJECTIVES**

Each day all learners will have the opportunity to participate in an occasion of worship and reflection of high quality.

- A variety of different opportunities will be used to meet our statutory duty. We will have a direct form of Worship ( assembly style) led by the Head; the Clergy; each teacher; the Children will lead Worship in their classes; we will have a termly Eucharist, either in school or in Church ; we will celebrate Christmas in Church. At all times children will be asked to think and reflect on the content of the worship
- Strong links will be made between spiritual, moral, social and cultural education and religious education.
- Collective worship will contribute to the pupils' experience of awe and wonder.
- A good ethos will be created for worship, enabling children to enjoy music, singing and celebration.
- Worship will be used to help children understand and experience the meaning of great religious festivals and Holy days.
- Worship will contribute to community cohesion and will promote learners' spiritual, social and moral education.

## **Strategies and Outcomes**

The relationship between policy and practice is understood.

On most occasions the school will meet as a whole to worship and on other occasions in different groupings

- On some occasions worship will be held in classrooms at appropriate times during the day and will be lead by staff and learners.
- Pupils will learn some well known prayers and hymns and these will be used in worship.
- Worship will be used for celebration and thanksgiving.
- Pupils will be given opportunities both to participate in worship and to lead worship.
- On some occasions parents will be invited to participate in collective worship with the school.
- Occasionally, outside speakers will be brought in to address the children and, where appropriate, lead acts of worship.
- On special occasions, worship will be linked to religious and other festivals e.g. Christmas, Easter, Harvest and St. George's Day.

## **OUTCOMES**

Pupils will be offered excellent opportunities to experience, enjoy and participate in a variety of different kinds of acts of worship. They will have the opportunity to experience an ethos conducive to spiritual development through prayer and reflection. They will learn to develop positive attitudes to worship and worshipping communities. Through collective worship learners will grow in spirituality and experience awe and wonder.

## **Equal Access and Outcome**

The Equal Opportunities Policy will be adhered to, ensuring an entitlement for all to fully develop their potential, with all pupils having access to the full range of activities and experiences.

## **Health and Safety**

- The health and Safety Policy will be adhered to.
- School visits will be planned carefully with regard to the requirements for educational visits.

## **Implementation**

The policy will be implemented following consultation with staff and governors. All staff will have an Agreed Copy of this policy document by the end of the Autumn term 2014.

Delivery of the policy will be monitored by the Co-ordinator and buddy.

## **Resourcing**

Resources will be updated as appropriate, and kept centrally.

## **Spirituality across the Curriculum**

*This appendix has been completed following whole staff INSET led by the Shropshire Advisor for RE and the school RE co-ordinator.*

We can ensure that we contribute directly to children's spiritual development if we offer them the opportunity to:

- Sense or be aware of the mystery of life, of awe and wonder.
- Develop the skills of reflection, silence, and the exploration of inner space.
- Enquire with an open mind.
- Be aware of one's own uniqueness, of the worth of one's self, and of one's identity.
- Empathise with others.
- Be aware of the dark side of life, of suffering, pain, decay and loss.
- Appreciate a sense of community, its demands, values, rituals and celebrations.
- Communicate through speech, art, music, drama etc. responses and feelings with increasing confidence and self-esteem.
- Explore symbols, images and metaphors and their use in helping understanding.

### ***Agreed approaches to a reflective way of teaching:***

- Start from children's own experience.
- Value each child's contribution.
- Provide opportunities for children to find things out for themselves.
- Encourage a questioning approach.
- Ensure there is always time for discussion/reflection.
- Encourage and recognise expression of feelings especially through the arts.
- Provide occasions when children can develop their imaginative skills.
- Develop children's awareness of and ability to use their senses, and to concentrate on the present moment.

## Planning for Collective Worship

In Collective Worship planning, weekly themes take account of the requirements of the Shropshire Agreed Syllabus, QCA units and the National Framework for R.E.

The termly planning rota is the responsibility of the R.E co-ordinator.  
Each term at least one week focuses on:

- The Natural World
- Relationships
- Celebration
- World religions
- Self awareness

Weekly themes also take account of work being covered in curricular areas and of significant events in the calendar.

At Christmas the school attends an afternoon church service to which parents and friends are invited. There is also an Easter service held either in church or in school and a Harvest /One World Week celebration held in school in the autumn term.

There are opportunities to witness/take part in Holy Communion during our termly school Eucharists. These are led by Anglican clergy and supported by Year 6 pupils.

A Worship assembly takes place every school day.

- Monday – led by Head Teacher.
- Tuesday – led by a Senior Teacher and Music co-ordinator for sing and Worship.
- Wednesday – led by Anglican clergy.
- Thursday – led by The 'Open the Book' team, telling Bible stories, or classroom worship led by class teachers. From time to time this assembly may be taken by other visiting guest speakers e.g. speaking on behalf of charities or conservation.
- Friday – Autumn and Summer terms - Worship led by individual classes in turn, following the weekly theme, and to which parents are invited. Spring term – teacher led assembly where class teachers take the assembly in turn.

The usual format for Worship is to commence with an interactive presentation, discussion, story or play based on the weekly theme, followed by a period of reflection and/or prayer, and a hymn.

The opinions and views of pupils with regard to content, delivery and meaningfulness of Worship assemblies are actively sought through School Council questionnaires, and are acted upon wherever possible.