



“Together, we inspire a lifelong love of learning.”

Longnor CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy September 2024

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Position: Head teacher

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Definition of Collective Worship

We gather each day for collective worship as a whole school. As a school, we gather together at the beginning of each day (other than a Friday) in order to consider and reflect on Bible stories, quotes or songs focused upon Christian values. During collective worship children will be given the opportunity to reflect, pray or be still, then opportunities to respond are encouraged through specific activities taken back to classes.

In collective worship, children and adults respond to the worship in different ways and at different levels. All are welcome. It is the task of collective worship to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised but in which everyone finds something positive for themselves.

The content of collective worship must take account of the varied backgrounds of the pupils (and staff) as well as of their ages and aptitudes.

Aims

- To be a special time with a distinctly spiritual atmosphere that is conducive to worship.
- To provide the opportunity to reflect upon, and celebrate, the values and worth of the school community, creating a sense of belonging.
- To enable children to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation and prayer.
- To foster a sense of the divine, which enhances the spiritual development of the children
- Consider spiritual and moral issues, reinforcing positive attitudes.
- Explore their own beliefs
- To provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others.
- Sharing of common aims and values
- Participate and respond
- Celebrate how children and staff have flourished through school
- To heighten awareness of the ultimate questions / realities of life and to provide the opportunity to reflect upon these to support the search for meaning.
- To foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy.
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate Christian festivals and those of other faiths and reflect on Christian teaching.
- To explore how others worship God and why
- Explore together the world in which we live, encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues.

These aims are achieved by creating a special time, with appropriate mood and atmosphere. Children are given the opportunity to explore feelings and share beliefs in relation to the world around them. Discussion, celebration, prayer, praise and reflection all have a part to play in this.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

All pupils experience daily worship together within the school assembly. This is based on Christian values and teaching.

Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate. It is led by the headteacher and the assembly leaders. The Rector is a regular visitor, leading the whole school in worship, once a fortnight. Visitors from other churches or relevant interest groups may also contribute. Children are encouraged to take an active part and at times organise acts of worship of their own.

The whole school also meets to celebrate the main Christian festivals of Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas and Easter. Services are held in the church to which family, friends and the wider community are invited.

We visit the church each month to share our songs and worship within St. Mary's church.

The acts of Collective Worship

As a church school, our act of worship will aim to be in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England i.e. reliably Christian. In accordance with the requirements of the 1988 Act, worship is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. The core of all assemblies involves a theme developed by the leader which is usually based around one of our values.

At the start of collective worship the Christian symbols music is used to allow for calm and personal reflection before worship begins. A candle is lit or the gong is played seven times (one for each day of the creation story) and the symbols of a Bible and cross are positioned at the front of the room. The theme for worship is planned using the Roots and Fruits themes values in line with the whole school plan. Time for reflection is provided and the theme is followed by a short prayer. Singing of hymns and songs are always part of the assembly and we have a wide variety of songs for the staff and children to choose from.

A variety of resources will be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. The stimulus may be a story, video clip, sharing of experiences, discussion of events in the news or artefact to consider linked to a quote or Bible story of focus. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

An assembly log book, is maintained in the hall to assist with continuity, balance and evaluation.

Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.