

CUDDINGTON AND DINTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Collective Worship Policy



Aims of collective worship

Collective worship in Cuddington and Dinton C of E School aims to provide the opportunity for pupils and staff to:

- worship God and reflect on Christian values
- experience a variety of styles of worship
- celebrate together eg festivals, school values, individual achievements
- develop a reflective approach to living which encourages understanding of and invitation to prayer;
- look beyond the physical, material and measurable;
- consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs;
- build a sense of community/foster corporate identity;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship
- feel safe and affirmed in doing any of the above

Statutory requirements

By law, Collective Worship must:

- take place for every child not withdrawn by their parents (post 16 students can withdraw themselves) every day
- reflect the school's Trust Deed

This means that collective worship will reflect the traditions of worship within the Church of England, whilst being invitational, inclusive and valuing of people from all backgrounds and positions of faith.

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective worship time is distinct from curriculum time given to any subject including religious education. However, in Cuddington and Dinton C of E School, we aim to enable collective worship and aspects of children's classroom learning to be mutually supportive.

Collective worship provides opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in line with school policy. To achieve this it addresses a wide variety of themes and topics, uses diverse stimuli and resources and provides pupils with opportunities to 'respond' at their own level.

The Management of Collective Worship

The governors are responsible for the provision of collective worship, supported by and in consultation with the headteacher. The following arrangements exist to co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate collective worship:

1. A rota for leading collective worship and themes for each week.
2. Headteacher observes at least 6 acts of collective worship (from a range of formats) per term to ensure that they comply with school policy and the law.

3. Teacher, pupil and, where appropriate, parental views are collected annually to evaluate the quality and impact of collective worship and to identify ways in which it might be improved.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings in the school hall, the classroom and sometimes in church. It also occurs at a variety of times in the day but is always designed to promote thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

Leadership

Every member of the school staff, pupils the clergy of the local clergy and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of collective worship is considered carefully to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Termly planning sheets (*Included in the appendix*) list themes, special occasions and events, but there is flexibility to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Weekly planning and recording sheets (*Included in the appendix*), enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship.

Visitors are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance (*Included in the appendix*) on our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths. (*See section 4 of this document for 'Visitor Guidance'*)

The Act of Collective Worship

We use a variety of styles, active and interactive methods and a range of resources (*included in an appendix*) in our acts of collective worship. Leaders make decisions about these elements according to what is most appropriate to the content, the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils.

Prayer is usually included in our acts of worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and 'God' reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. We hope that pupils who prefer not to pray will use these moments to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Collective worship should not be confused with assembly. We often take the opportunity of pupils gathered together to share announcements and notices. Using a variety of strategies eg music, silence etc we indicate clearly to all present when worship begins and ends.

Withdrawal

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship (*in VA schools staff do not have the right to withdraw from collective worship unless directed by the Headteacher or Deputy*) We request that those who wish to exercise this right inform the Headteacher in writing so that school records are accurate. We also appreciate opportunities to speak with parents and staff who have concerns about collective worship, always keen to develop our understanding of sensitivities and to overcome difficulties where possible. Those pupils who are withdrawn from worship are cared for by a member of the school's staff.