

Bomere and the XI Towns Federation

'With God all things are possible'

Matthew 19:26

Our school nurtures all pupils and those in our school community to flourish as individuals; educationally, spiritually and morally, promoting Christian values through the experience we offer to all. Our core Christian values are Hope, Love and Respect.



A STATEMENT OF POLICY

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

The following policy is a result of staff, parent, governor and pupil discussion, workshops, training, development and review of practice, and is based on LA guidance.

Date; February 2020 - updated January 2022

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General Principles – Mission

At Bomere and the XI Towns Federation we aim to offer a high standard of education to all children, seeking to develop the whole child, educationally, spiritually and morally, in a happy, caring, orderly, questioning and stimulating environment, in which attitudes of mutual respect and responsibility are paramount.

Recognising their historic foundations, both schools preserve and develop the religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England, and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

Collective Worship is regarded as an important part of the schools daily life. It offers the whole school community opportunities to participate in the living expression of Christian worship and aims to develop in the pupils a sympathetic understanding of the meaning and significance of Christian faith, but with no pressure exerted to believe. No child will be treated differently in any way because they do not adhere to Christian beliefs. Children have a right to express their beliefs in their own individual way.

Both schools teach knowledge, understanding and respect of other major faiths, cultures and customs.

Legal Requirements

DfE legislation requires us to provide a daily act of collective worship, which is broadly Christian. In both our schools the Trust Deeds of the two schools requires collective worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England.

We conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school, and will be:

- appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils
- provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings with a variety of leaders

The 1944 Education Act, restated by the 1988 Education Reform Act, allows for parents to withdraw their children from the daily act of collective worship - but not assembly. We recognise this right; parents/carers do not have to explain or give reason for their decision. Currently we enjoy the full support of the whole school community.

Aims

The act of collective worship is generally part of our school assembly and we make a clear distinction between assembly and collective worship.

Meaning of Collective Worship

1. "Worship" is something special or separate from ordinary school activities, concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power.
2. Collective worship can be related to the day-to-day life, aspirations and concerns of the school.
3. "Taking part" implies more than simply passive attendance, and we hope it will elicit a response from the pupils:
 - to foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
 - to realise they are on a spiritual journey with choices and responsibilities along the way
 - to explore and share the beliefs of others
 - to foster sympathy or imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways
 - to explore and enjoy praise and prayer
 - to encounter the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God
 - to bring Christianity into everyday life
 - to foster a reverential attitude to God

Worship is distinctively different to the assembly part of our shared time.

The aims of our assembly are;

- to develop a sense of community and shared values
- to consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- to be challenging and inspiring
- to celebrate achievement
- to give out notices and information to the whole school

Management of Collective Worship

The Foundation School Governors have responsibility to ensure the Trust Deeds of both schools are honoured. Parents are informed through the school prospectus.

The teaching staff share responsibility for managing this area of the curriculum on a day-to-day basis, with the Executive Head ensuring all legal requirements are complied with. This involves the production of a coherent programme for Collective Worship, developed termly, which has continuity of Christian teaching and experience, and breadth and balance.

Records of themes and suggested resources/activities are displayed on the staffroom walls, and stored in files that shows termly coverage.

Themes are planned on a two year cycle.

An annual budget allows resources to be continually updated.

Staff attend relevant training and development to ensure that practice and professional knowledge is current and relevant.

Role of the Foundation School Governors

The Foundation Governors monitor the policy and practice of collective worship and liaise with the Executive Head teacher before reporting to all Governors on collective worship and religious education. All governors are invited to monitor worship.

Role of the Co-ordinator

The co-ordinator:

- ensures a termly programme of daily acts of worship is completed
- ensures a range and variety of themes is included on a 2 year cycle
- updates resources
- attends inset and updates
- leads development
- evaluates coverage and progression

Monitoring and Evaluation

Pupils' feedback is used to evaluate their understanding and response. They should be able to talk about, and reflect on, their beliefs and how they relate to other beliefs.

Worship is monitored with regard to

- content
- progression of themes
- continuity
- progression in experiences
- coverage
- pupils' development in understanding of the Christian faith

The planning grid includes space for evaluations. These may be recorded on an on-going basis and at least termly.

Current Practice

Organisation

A daily act of worship is held. This may be whole school, key stage or within classes. Nursery/Pre-school children may join us in our worship.

A timetable is developed termly showing a daily breakdown of themes. Sometimes a class circle time act of worship is also used possibly for evaluation.

We provide opportunities for children to worship in Church. These occasions provide experiences of worshipping with a wider (Christian) community and may include Christmas/Christingle, Mothering Sunday, St. John the Baptist Day, Rogation Sunday, Easter and Harvest Festival

The local vicars join the act of worship on a regular basis, usually about three times a term in Ruyton, and leading 'Open the Book' fortnightly at Bomere.

There are good links with the Church through children's workshops for children.

We take the themes for our worship time from the scheme 'Values for Life' as recommended by our diocesan representative and linked to Shropshire's SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) scheme of work. These are enhanced by add on themes taken from the traditions of the Christian faith. We reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our worship times reflect and build on topics we teach as part of the school curriculum.

Where possible, we encourage the children to participate in worship time by showing their work to other children and raising issues they have discussed in class.

We have a worship council who share ongoing conversations with staff to ensure our worship does not become dull or boring; they bring new ideas and help to develop the journey of faith in our school.

Methodology for delivering the worship

The timing of Worship Time is decided upon in order to facilitate a calm atmosphere.

Teaching staff attend acts of worship in order to enable progression and ensure a whole school approach.

These arrangements are continually under review as circumstances change.

Themes developed in acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance and variety, including all elements of worship regularly. This is achieved by a retrospective overview of past coverage.

Leading the Act of Worship

Children are encouraged to behave quietly and with respect. The children enter and leave the hall whilst a piece of music is played and may reflect during the playing of the music for the act of worship. Careful planning is given to the chosen music to allow spiritual development of the community in school.

We conduct worship time in a dignified and respectful way. Children understand that worship time is a period of calm reflection; we regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. Children are quiet and thoughtful and listen carefully to the teachings and messages, participating in prayer and hymns and the theme, as appropriate. We create an appropriate atmosphere by playing music and lighting candles or using other objects as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The act of worship includes the singing of a hymn. The theme will be introduced and presented through a variety of ways, for example:

- Story
- Drama
- Music
- Pictures
- Poems
- Children's work

On occasions, our worship time may be conducted 'in the round' or other forms. This we believe promotes the notion of reverence and respect and encouraging our pupils to see worship as inspirational. We occasionally carry out worship outdoors.

Content

Worship should leave children free to respond in a way that is appropriate for their age, experience and understanding.

Worship compliments classroom teaching, and values explored in worship powerfully communicate the ethos of the school.

Various concepts are central to the traditional Christian belief such as reconciliation, incarnation and creation. Such beliefs are shared across Christian traditions and form a focus for school worship.

The general development of pupils will be assisted by:

- providing them with opportunities for developing performance and leadership skills.
- developing their singing abilities
- providing opportunity for group participation and presentation

The moral development of pupils will be given the opportunity to:

- reflect on moral and social issues
- appreciate the values and beliefs that people live by
- acknowledge and become more aware of the needs of others

In looking out to the wider world, pupils will have the opportunity to:

- take note of events in the world and express joy and sorrow, as appropriate
- celebrate and give thanks

We aim that, as a result of inspirational collective worship, pupils and adults are inspired to become people of action and courageous advocates - speaking out against injustice and helping those in need.

Participation

Pupils are encouraged to participate in the delivery of worship time in a variety of ways:

- leading

- playing music to accompany singing – guitar/recorder/CD
- selecting appropriate songs/music
- selecting and playing music for pupils entering and leaving
- reading prayers
- acting
- take responsibility for setting out and clearing away

There is a rota of pupils' leading worship, planned and lead entirely by older pupils. Pupils receive training and support with these. Our worship council helps to develop worship ideas and suggestions into practise.

We expect that the school's collective worship practices will provide a shared set of symbols, signs, words, and actions which give the community a language upon which it can draw, at all times in our life journey but particularly, in times of both joy and grief.

Appendices

Resources:

These are located in the Staff Room cupboard at Ruyton and in the hall cupboards at Bomere

- worship table
- music, hymn words and books are located in the cupboard in the hall store
- CDs in the hall
- Christian artefacts - located in the admin store at Ruyton, and in hall cupboards at Bomere
- Welcome to worship on the door at Ruyton and in the hall at Bomere (includes an overview of the worship structure) - see below

Worship

Bomere and the XI Towns Federation:

St John the Baptist CE Primary School, Ruyton XI Towns

and

Bomere Heath CE Primary School

We share;

- A calm and reflective entry - worship council members to lead the transition from class to the hall Music to be played on entry
- A welcome to all to worship
- Lighting the candle and recalling the trinity
- The school creed together
- The value for the day
- A bible story
- The links of our bible story to our school values
- Reflection time - how does this apply to you? Quiet time to think then discuss how it links to us and our school? to the world? Can we think of anyone who demonstrates this value (or historically demonstrated it)
- A Prayer
- A Song
- Blowing out candle
- Any post worship activities ie birthdays, messages etc

Everyone is welcome to join us in our worship – we hope you enjoy spending this time with us.