



ST NICHOLAS AND ST LAURENCE SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

This policy was reviewed in April 2018

It was adopted at the Governors Meeting on 2 May 2018

This policy will be reviewed in April 2020

Rationale

St Nicholas and St Laurence C of E School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School.

Collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

Worship is an important part of this school's day as it gives us the opportunity to develop a sense of belonging within the school, of being part of a wider community and to reinforce positive attitudes. Here, pupils and staff can explore, affirm and celebrate the (broadly Christian) values on which the school is based. All pupils and staff attend, and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

Mission Statement

Together we Love, Together we Hope, Together we Learn

Our School Ethos Statement as a 'deeply Christian' VA school

Recognising its historic foundation, the School will preserve and develop its deeply Christian character in accordance with the principles of the Church at parish and diocesan level. The School aims to serve its community by providing education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers all its pupils.

Aims of Collective Worship

It is our aim at St Nicholas and St Laurence School that the school community recognises and values worship as the heartbeat of the school:-

- Pupils and adults talk enthusiastically about worship and explain how it influences their lives, both in and out of school
- celebrate our underpinning values of Love, Hope and Learning underpinned by the 7 C's (Caring, Courteous, Communicative, Confident, Co-operative, Considerate, Conscientious)
- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural

development of each child.

- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
 - allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
 - celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
 - foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others.
 - provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.
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- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet
 - provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism
 - provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
 - to help pupils to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
 - to help all pupils and adults appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example, using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and where appropriate, the Eucharist.
 - provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place at other times.

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. The school accepts the desirability of this legislation but has considerable practical difficulties in meeting this requirement. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship in class groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Headteacher, in consultation with the Ex-Officio Governor.

In our acts of worship we share with pupils the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

The School recognises that there is a difference between an Act of Collective Worship and an Assembly. On some occasions Assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to Worship may be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image, or a moment of silence and reflection.

Rights of Withdrawal

At St Nicholas and St Laurence School we seek to be an inclusive community. However we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Head Teacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for pupils withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

This right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies.

Organisation

At our school we have an Act of Collective Worship for 15 minutes each day, either in the School Hall, or in individual classrooms.

Monday – Whole School Worship.

Tuesday – Hymn practice inclusive of a collective worship.

Wednesday – Whole school collective worship

Thursday – Whole school worship/whole school celebration (Assembly class or Star Learner)

Friday – Class or unit worship

Pupils are involved in leadership of collective worship including creating PowerPoints. This is generally through the school council and supported by Mr David. Other forms of participation includes for example, preparing the room, helping to choose the music, playing musical instruments, writing prayers.

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective worship is treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

The format for Collective Worship is:

- Gathering
- Engaging
- Reflecting
- Sending

Worship is planned to:

- Offer the opportunity to explore, reflect upon and respond to the mystery and meaning of the Christian faith, as an inclusive activity which seeks to build links with all dimensions of the curriculum.
- Include the traditional elements of Christian worship: prayers, songs, Bible reading, to which pupils are given the opportunity to respond.
- Observe both the cycle of the Church's year and the School Year - and themes appropriate to this and the pupils' aptitude and ability are selected.
- Reflect the Anglican heritage by:
 - 1 Using the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning.
 - 2 Reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in worship.
 - 3 Identifying a collection of songs, prayers and responses that create a framework for worship within the school.
 - 4 Providing opportunity to discover the value of reflection within the context of Christian worship.
 - 5 A commitment to dialogue with other faiths, shown in sharing the welcome offered to all pupils and the celebration of shared values and beliefs.
 - 6 Values for life document used for planning lessons

All Acts of Worship are planned and recorded, and there is evaluation during the week of how the worship was received. One of the school's Foundation Governors has a role monitoring Collective Worship. This could include 'pupil voice interviews.

Resources

A collection of worship resource books, Bibles, lists and folders is available in school. We are also welcome to support of the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education, RE Advisers, our Vicar, or local churches.