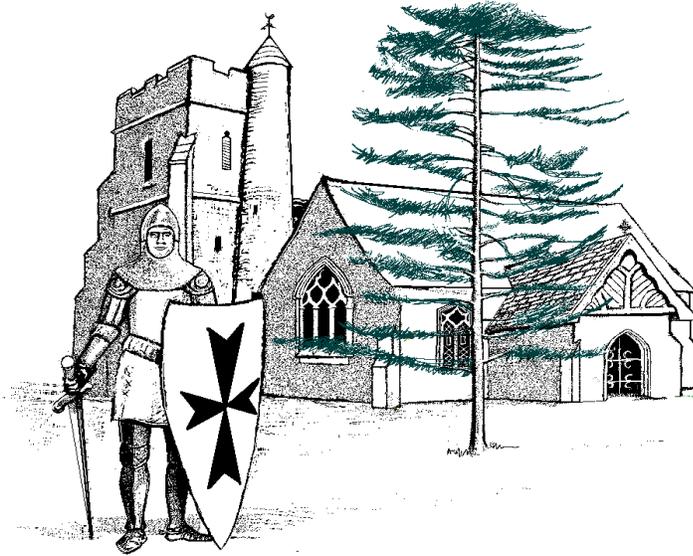


Sutton-at-Hone Church of England Primary School



Collective Worship Policy



A Church of England School
Diocese of Rochester

Policy Date: December 2018

Review Date: December 2020

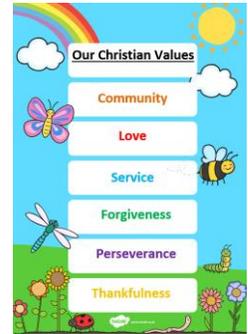
Head of School: Mrs K Trowell

Chair of Governors: Mr M Shaw

Sutton-at-Hone CE Primary School
Collective Worship Policy

Our Christian Values

Community Love Service Forgiveness Perseverance Thankfulness



Mission Statement

In this Church School we hope that the love of Jesus Christ will be evident to all who come within our walls. We hope that it will guide not only our daily acts of Collective Worship, but that it will become a firm foundation for the whole life of the school, guiding all that we do and say. We hope that the children of this school as they grow physically and mentally, will also grow socially and spiritually so gaining a real respect for themselves, for each other, and indeed, for the whole of this exciting world - God's world - in which we all live.

“Sutton-at-Hone Church of England Primary School is a place of learning which, through a strong sense of Christian values, endeavours to provide each individual child with a broad, balanced, relevant, progressive and differentiated curriculum.

We believe that at all stages of a child’s development, learning should be a stimulating, enjoyable and worthwhile experience in its own right, accessed by all regardless of sex, race, religious belief, cultural background or disability. The school is important to the life of the village it serves and seeks to maintain and strengthen its existing strong links with the Church and local community.”

Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctive Christian character of our school, reaffirms our Christian values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England as well as other Christian traditions, and recognises and follows the Church’s liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

Our Aims for Collective Worship

- To explore a relationship with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- To reflect on our explicit Christian values
- To develop personal spirituality especially through prayer, and also through a range of other experiences
- To have opportunities to live out and explore Biblical teachings
- To be engaged in an exploration of the relevance and application of the Christian faith
- To develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly through reflection and wondering questions
- To develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared Christian values
- To foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- To reflect on their own beliefs
- To develop a respect for and an understanding of different beliefs

- To deepen and widen the experience of worship for those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'little or no formal faith' so that they may begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship

Organisation

School worship:

- Takes place daily
- Is all inclusive
- Teaching staff are expected to attend and all other staff are welcome
- Is planned, with specific themes, at a level in accordance with the differing age groups and understanding of the pupils attending the act of worship
- Includes celebration in songs, hymns, readings, drama and other creative ways
- Allows members of the school community to have opportunities to reflect, responding individually or collectively to a statement of belief, prayer, silence or reflection
- Celebrates the achievements and learning of all pupils
- Has a range of leaders including the Head of School, Assistant Head, our local vicar (Reverend Emma), Senior Leaders, class teachers, church representatives and the children
- Worship is held either for a class or as a whole school in the school hall, in classrooms and at our Church, St John the Baptist, and at other local churches and cathedrals. Collective worship lasts for 15 minutes, followed by a 5 minute reflection time in the classroom, giving the children the opportunity to reflect on what they learnt during worship and how this might impact on their daily life
- The planning of collective worship is undertaken by the Assistant Head with advice from the incumbent, and taking into account feedback from the children, staff, governors, parents and visitors.
- The Diocesan Framework for worship is used, supplemented by other worship resources, and key events throughout the course of the year. Plans are adapted and changed to suit the needs of the children or the prompting of a local or world issue.
- A range of experiences are planned for, including: dramatised bible stories; bible readings; music; formal prayers; silence and reflection; hymns and songs; photographs and video clips.
- Children's involvement in leading and contributing to collective worship is essential. Children contribute by sharing their reflections and prayers, lighting the candle and reading from the bible, and participating in the Eucharist Services. Each class leads an act of worship twice a year, and contributes to whole school worship at Christmas, Easter and Harvest. 'Leading Lights' from year 5 lead the gathering, prayers and blessings during worship.
- As worship is an integral part of life in our church school, opportunities will arise within all aspects of school life to promote it. We recognise that worship is not restricted to the gathering of the school community in the hall or classrooms but can be a response to a sense of awe and wonder or need by the individual, group or class at any time during the school day. We aim to promote opportunities to allow pupils to worship in response to the situations which arise in their daily lives. Class teachers ensure flexibility in the timetable to allow for reflection and spiritual development across the curriculum.

As a Church of England School, the content of our worship is organised to:

- Use the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- Observe the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Saints Days
- Learn and say Christian prayers from a number of sources, for example, the Lord's Prayer and the Grace
- Use simple Anglican liturgy at levels appropriate to students'/pupils' age
- Sing a wide variety of Christian hymns and songs
- Experience the Christian symbolism in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles
- Use prayer, silence and reflection
- Celebrate the Eucharist/Holy Communion

Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement. In line with the statutory requirement, a Christian act of collective worship is provided for all pupils every day. All teachers attend all acts of collective worship. Time allocated to collective worship is not part of curriculum time.

Inclusion

Acts of worship should include all children and the content should respect the individuality of each child. Prayers will be by invitation and there will be a time for free reflection. When planning, thought should be given to SEND children to ensure they can access and engage with the stories and sung worship.

Induction Programme for Children in the Foundation Stage

When pupils join Sutton-at-Hone in the reception classes they hold their own daily Act of Worship. When appropriate the children are gradually integrated into whole school Acts of Worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation takes place as follows:

The governors responsible for collective worship undertake monitoring of collective worship twice a year, alongside the Assistant Head. This includes observing a range of leaders and types of worship, undertaking pupil voice sessions, speaking to staff and monitoring planning and resources.

Self-evaluation and Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

School self-evaluation is completed on the SIAMS self-evaluation forms provided by the Diocese. Worship is inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act (SIAMS).

Parental Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos so our Head of school would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents. If a parent decided to withdraw their child/children from collective worship this should be put in writing to the Head of School.