

St. Nicholas-at-Wade Church of England Primary School

Policy and Statement for Collective Worship

The school's Governors and Staff recognise Collective Worship to be an important, valuable and central aspect of our Church of England School's life. Through our worship we aim to convey this message to all connected with the school. Our Collective Worship is conducted in a variety of forms: through whole school worship, through Key Stage Worship, through individual or shared class worship opportunities – these being on a smaller, more intimate scale – and through whole school collective worship in our village church of St. Nicholas. The former acts generally follow a theme, the Anglican Church year or when appropriate, a spontaneous and relevant contemporary topic. Opportunities are occasionally taken to consider and compare the festivals and stories of other faiths although acts of worship in the context of our school are Christian based. These “assemblies” take place in our small school hall and a resource bank with a variety of Christian stories, (both biblical and contemporary) is used. Class collective worship takes place in classrooms and might support Key Stage theme, reflect a topical issue or be based upon a subject pertinent to that class. Opportunity is given for prayer, reflection and a “thought for the day”. Children share prayer time as an integral part of their school day. Our collective worship is to be enjoyed and aims to provide opportunities to celebrate Christianity as a school and a community, to share Christian stories and values and to share worship.

Collective Worship is provided in accordance with the legal requirements set out in the Education Reform Act 1988 ensuring that every child attends a daily act of worship, unless withdrawn by his/her parent. It is important to us that this worship is consistent with Anglican belief and practice.

Aims of our Collective Worship

- to provide opportunities for pupils to worship God
- to celebrate the Christian values on which the life of the school is based
- to experience some of the traditional forms of Christian worship
- to develop children's spiritual and moral development
- to develop a community spirit, promote a common ethos with shared values and reinforce positive attitudes
- to foster in children feelings of mystery, awe, wonder, reflection and joy
- to foster a sense of inter-relatedness to other people
- to encourage children to participate and respond either through active involvement or through listening and joining in the worship
- to help learn some of the skills of worship
- to experience stories from the Christian faith

Organisation

This is our current pattern of assemblies for Collective Worship:

Day	Time	Year Groups	Led By
Monday	9.10	Junior 3-6 Infant R-2	Head and Infant Staff
Tuesday	9.10	Junior 3-6 or Infant R-2	Rev. Peter Richmond
Wednesday	Class Worship		
Thursday	9.10	Junior 3-6	Deputy Head
Friday	9.10 and 13.10 “Celebrations”	Yrs 2-6 and Yrs R-1	Head and Infant Staff

It is our intention by having four or five regular leaders of collective worship to introduce the children to a variety of styles of worship and as stated previously, these will incorporate a Christian theme. Reverend Peter Richmond, our local vicar, leads one act of worship a week, alternating between Infants and Junior children on a termly basis.

Friday's collective worship also includes celebrations of good workers, achievements, various certificates including the school's reward system, sports and music, school team performances and birthday smarties!

On days when classes do not meet in the hall, an act of worship takes place in the classroom.

Assemblies will include material for collective worship that is age appropriate and may involve a range of worship styles and experiences such as singing, prayer, listening, silence, reflection and participation by role play.

Collection of Resources for Collective Worship

The resources for Collective Worship are added to periodically and the Head Teacher retains a wide range of material for all staff to share including the Primary Assembly File.

A selection of these materials includes:

Kings and Monkeys... by Michael Catchpool and Pat Lunt
Cooks and Ogres... (as above)
Ugly Bugs and Apple Trees... (as above)
Signs and Wonders
The Dancing Flame... both by J.J. Overell
Round the Year ... Jeanne L. Jackson
Assemblies for Primary Schools (Autumn, Spring and Summer Terms)... Margaret Cooling
Stories of Jesus... Timothy Dudley-Smith
Stories to read Aloud... Patrick Coghlan
Favourite Assemblies for ages 7-11... Anne Stewart
Ideas for Assemblies... Georgie Beasley
The Almost Instant Assembly Book... Sue and Chris Govus
Worship! ... John Bailey

These materials support some of the older favourites including...

101 School Assembly Stories... Frank Carr (Books 1, 2 and 4)
The Johnny Morris Storybook... BBC
Many Hearts... Geoff Davies
Come Alive... Mackenzie Coulbourne
Assembly Chains... Diane Walker
Stories from Aesop
50 Favourite Bible Stories... Ernest Hayes
The Thought That Counts... J. J. Overell

The school has assembled a growing resource of materials since the last inspection to support elements of collective worship.

AJT

Policy reviewed: Autumn 2009

Governing Body Reviewed.....Date.....

Church and Parish Links

The school has forged and maintained strong links with our parish church of St. Nicholas, a beautiful Norman church some hundred metres from the school. The school uses the church regularly throughout the year for Harvest Celebrations, Christmas and Easter services, Christmas Concerts, an emotional end of year Leavers' Service and for collective worship where we can invite parents, friends and relatives. Following the Harvest Service, the children in Year Six take part in the tradition of delivering harvest produce to elderly residents of the village. Our church is also used as a resource for the school curriculum including aspects of Religious Education, Art, Maths and History.

Our Christmas Concerts are often curriculum related as exemplified by "visits" to a medieval Christmas, a Victorian Christmas and a World War One Concert including the singing in German of "Silent Night – Stille Nacht". A mixture of traditional and modern carols is regularly performed and opportunities are taken to explore dance and the accompaniment of the school orchestra. The church is always full to bursting on these occasions with standing room only!

Our school choir regularly performed at different residential homes for the elderly during the build up to Christmas celebrations – the local homes have now closed, partially due to restrictive legislation but also as a sign of the current economic climate. Within school the Infants have performed a mixture of traditional and modern nativity plays and the whole school has resounded to the memorable strains of "Hosanna Rock," "2000 Years Ago – Give or Take a Day" and "Rock Around the Flock".

As a Church of England School within the Canterbury Diocese our Year 6 children participate in the bi-annual Canterbury Cathedral School's Day and befitting our school's name we always take part in the vibrant St. Nicholas Day's parade each December in Canterbury.