POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP- MARCH 2021

'An inclusive Christian community building on firm foundations for successful lives.'

Introduction

At St Michael at Bowes we believe that our vision underpins everything we do and as such we strive for our children to 'build on firm foundations' in order for them to lead successful lives. Collective worship is an important and valued part of each school day. Acts of worship are Christian in nature with an opportunity for reflection on a variety of aspects of life for all children.

Aims

Our aims are:

- Daily school worship which is central to school life and ethos of the school, providing pupils with an opportunity to reflect on Christian values and beliefs.
- To enable children to pray and reflect.
- To define and reinforce shared values and ethos of the school community.
- To encourage the participation of all pupils in assemblies and acts of worship.
- Heightening pupils' awareness of questions relating to ultimate mysteries of life and of the beliefs held by themselves and others.
- To provide 'awe and wonder' moments for the school community
- Marking and celebrating occasions of importance to the school, the church and the wider community
- To ensure acts of worship are meaningful and relevant to all pupils.
- To mark and celebrate occasions of importance or merit to the pupils, school and wider community.
- To deepen and extend links with the parish churches of St Michael's and St Cuthbert's.

Objectives

Our objectives for worship are:

- To have an assembly each day for approximately 15 minutes.
- All participants to show respect and reverence for the place of worship through conduct, reflection and celebration of shared Christian values.
- To pray each day at the conclusion of assembly.
- For each assembly to offer an opportunity for reflection for all pupils.
- For assembly to offer opportunity for pupils to participate.
- As a school we emphasise the personal growth of the individual and encourage active participation in promoting the shared values and ethos of our school community and we expect the whole school to be present for Collective Worship.

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all the teaching staff. Collective worship may take place at the school or other places. It is our aim that all children in our care will take part in the worship we provide. As a Church School, we expect that all staff attend assemblies and Church services unless directed otherwise by the Headteacher.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the collective act of worship. We invite parents with a concern in this area to discuss the matter with the Headteacher.

Visitors

Visitors should know the parameters within which you want them to operate. Helping visitors be effective is important. They are guests and need to know what the traditions and customs are in the school.

Collective Worship should loosely follow a four-part format:
Shared Experience
Understanding and Imagination
Reflection
Prayer
Hymn
Messages
Exiting

All **assemblies start** with the following words followed by the collective worship/assembly:

Leader (adult): Peace be with you
Response (pupils): And also, with you

Shared Experience -This could include …

Telling a story

Describing a situation / event

Drama

'Part' speaking

Using visual aids / artefacts

Music

Involving pupils / students

Using visitors

Understanding and Imagination

This should include questioning and discussion on issues and teachings that have arisen. What theme has been highlighted? How does this relate to the lives of pupils?

Reflection

The candle is lit to signify the start of the reflection and prayer. It is important that all children are given an opportunity to reflect. It is important that this includes giving the children a focus and letting all pupils reflect silently for a moment. (Approx. 10 seconds).

Prayer

All assemblies must end with a prayer to clearly define the conclusion of worship. The candle is blown out after the prayer.

Hymn

A hymn is sung after the prayer. Where possible relate to the theme of the assembly.

Messages

Once collective worship is concluded staff may give messages.
The person leading the worship asks staff 'Are there any messages?'

Assemblies end:

Leader: Go in peace
Response: Amen

Exiting the hall

Once the whole session is concluded the candle is re lit, children are asked to reflect on the school values or message from the collective worship as they silently leave the hall.



OUR SCHOOL PRAYER

We give you our school.
We give you all the teachers and staff who work here.
We give you all the children who study here.

We pray our school would be a place of great discovery, adventure and creativity.

May it be a place where we love to learn and where we learn to love.

A place where everyone is respected and all are deeply valued.

We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.