

Collective Worship
Date Reviewed: Spring 2017
Next Review Date: Spring 2020

Luttons Community Primary School

and

Sherburn Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



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SHERBURN VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOL and LUTTONS COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

This document reflects both schools Mission Statements and aims:

Sherburn CE VC School's Mission Statement is - 'Working together, putting children first within our Christian family' Our aim is to 'Serve our community by providing an education of the highest quality for children of all faiths and none, within the context of Christian beliefs and practice. We believe in working together to make sure the school is a safe, secure, friendly and purposeful place where children are safe, encouraged, challenged and supported to do their best and learn'.

The Religious Ethos at Sherburn VC School is that Christian values underpin the work of Sherburn CE VC Primary School and these influence our care of the individual. The three priority values are friendship, truthfulness and forgiveness.

These support this policy wholeheartedly:

- Forgiveness because we learn from everything;
- Truthfulness to help us to be open; and
- Friendship because we call God our friend.'

Luttons C P School's Mission Statement is - 'Together we care, learn and grow'. Our aim is to 'Nurture, support and mentor everyone as they strive for excellence'

Collective Worship and the Law

About Collective worship

North Yorkshire state in their guidelines that the purpose of collective worship is to provide opportunities for pupils to participate in, and learn about the nature of worship, to explore beliefs and values for Christianity and other religions and to consider those beliefs and values that underpin school and community life. They recognise that:-

"The term collective worship recognises that within an individual school, pupils and staff will subscribe to a range of different beliefs, attitudes and standpoints. The spectrum will include those who have, or who come from families with a sense of personal belief or commitment, and those who may not share in any particular religious belief."

Guidelines on Collective worship (5.1)

Church schools in the diocese must fulfil two legal requirements for Collective Worship:-

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- The legal requirement for Church schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.

“The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.”

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

- Collective worship in Church schools must be in accordance with the school’s trust deed.

Collective Worship should be in accordance with the school’s Trust Deed

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of Sherburn CE School. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in Church for both schools.

Parents should be made aware that Sherburn School is a Church school and as such Collective Worship will be based upon the foundations and principles of the Church of England. This is best done through the school prospectus or on the school website. The governing body should be made aware of their legal responsibilities and be clear of their statutory responsibility to uphold the Christian foundation of the school. This responsibility to uphold the Christian ethos and foundation of the school should also be made clear to staff on their appointment.

Aims of Collective Worship

It is our aim at Sherburn CE VC School that worship should: -

- reflect the schools’ Trust Deed
- reflect the Mission Statement of the school
- underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school

It is our aim for the Federation that worship should:-

- be clearly planned
- be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils
- offer opportunities to worship God
- be inclusive and an occasion where each individual’s integrity is respected
- offer opportunities for pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church
- be regularly monitored and evaluated
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community
- be an opportunity for pupils to reflect on human existence

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- help children explore and develop their own spirituality
- enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- offer opportunities to share worship with parents, governors and members of the local community
- celebrate special occasions in the Churches year and the life of the community
- show appreciation for the God given gifts and talents of the school community.

Responsibility for Collective Worship

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met. In a small school the headteacher may wish to take on the responsibility for organising and planning the worship. Clergy will also be encouraged to be involved in the planning and preparation of school worship as this will ensure continuity between the worship in the school and in the parish or parishes. It must however be made clear to all staff and clergy who lead collective worship that they should do so in a way that ensures that all present can take part with integrity.

The Timing of Collective Worship

Collective Worship should be given a special period in the school day; a time when various groups within the school can meet together for prayer and reflection.

- Collective Worship can take place at any time and in any groupings
Schools might consider a variety of groupings throughout the week
- Worship can take place in a variety of settings; for example - In the school hall, in a class, outside, in the local church or church hall.
- The 1998 Education Act allows schools, on special occasions, to hold their daily Act of Worship elsewhere than in the school.

The Planning of Collective Worship

Collective worship will be 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.

Each term there is a theme for Collective worship based on Christian Values for Life/12 Baskets/SEAL. These are published at the beginning of the year. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the

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theme from a variety of viewpoints. Once a week worship takes place in the classroom and is linked to the reflections and needs of that class.

All those leading collective worship are asked to plan their act of worship in as much detail as they would any other learning activity. During a staff meeting there is an opportunity to review and evaluate the last terms Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term.

Judy Duke, one of the schools Foundation Governors has a role monitoring Collective Worship at the Sherburn CE School.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. The school council regularly seeks the views of their classmates and reports these findings to the school council.

Evaluation of Collective Worship

Following the planning of worship; the evaluation and recording, needs to be an integral part of the process. Worship can be evaluated by those leading the worship, other staff, the pupils for whom the worship is intended or members of the governing body. Feedback from any of these groups will help to improve the quality of worship offered to the pupils.

Monitoring of Collective Worship

The monitoring of the planning and provision of worship should be carried out on a regular basis. The foundation governors have a key role in this process to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality. It is recommended that the Collective worship section of The National Societies Self evaluation toolkit be used as a basis for this process

Some schools have made use of the 'Lighting the Candle' resource to enable pupils, staff and governors to engage in this process. In this way pupils can take responsibility for surveying pupils.

In other schools a Foundation governor has interviewed a cross-section of pupils.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Sherburn CE VC and Luttons CP School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

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

All teachers in VC Schools, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish to exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Sherburn CE VC school.

Resources

Resources for worship are kept in the staff room.