



Shankhill C of E Primary School

Our vision: Creative learning, personal achievement and happiness.

Enabling every child to flourish and 'to live life in all its fullness'. (John 10:10)

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

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*Our vision: Creative learning, personal achievement and happiness.
Enabling every child to flourish and 'to live life in all its fullness'. (John 10:10)*

Our school vision embraces the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of our children and community. We offer a vision of human flourishing for all, one that embraces excellence and academic rigour, which is explored through moral and creative learning experiences that support and shape the development and character of the whole child. We do this by exploring the Christian values which permeate our vision for education in Shankhill Church of England Primary School:

*** Wisdom * Hope * Community * Dignity * Peace * Joy**

Our Mission Statement:

Within our ethos:

- Our school will develop in each child a respect for others and the distinctively Christian environment we all share, so that they may become responsible, well-rounded young people;
- School will be enjoyable within a caring atmosphere in which learning will be exciting, creative and inclusive.

Rationale

Collective worship at Shankhill Church of England Primary School takes place daily in accordance with the provisions of the Schools Standards and Framework Act, 1998.

The content of all our acts of collective worship is in accordance with the beliefs and practices of the Anglican Church (as required by the Trust Deed and the instrument of governance of this Church of England School).

This policy was prepared and agreed by the governing body, headteacher and all staff. The governors are grateful for the help of in preparing this document. Visitors to the school who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of this policy.

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in collective worship which is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. We base our collective worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church through our school values of wisdom, hope, community, dignity, peace and joy. We conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual members of our school and wider community. In the words of former Archbishop Runcie we seek through collective worship “to nourish those of the faith, encourage those of other faiths and to challenge those of no faith”.

Aims

We believe at this school that collective worship both supports and strengthens our school vision and what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. It also provides an opportunity to express and develop our school values of community, responsibility, resilience, courage, hope and kindness. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child (spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually) is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- Explore, reflect upon and celebrate the Christian Values on which the school is based
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Heighten awareness of questions relating to the ultimate mysteries of life and explore responses that have been made by people of faith
- Deepen their sense of awe and wonder about the world around them
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in everyday situations and beliefs
- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school during worship or through planning and leading worship
- Explore their own spirituality, being open to silence, stillness, reflection and prayer
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person’s life stance, whether it be religious or not

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular, school worship here develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

Practicalities

The whole school including members of staff, meet together in the hall each afternoon after lunch. Worship usually lasts between 10 and 20 minutes. The Friday worship includes a celebration of children's efforts and achievements in school and elsewhere. Parents, Governors and members of the church and local community are invited to attend collective worship on Fridays and on special festivals.

Various people assist the head in conducting whole school worship. Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship. The priest of the parish are frequently invited, as are members of charitable organisations offering their expertise to the school. (A list of contact addresses is included as an appendix). Class teachers also lead whole school worship on occasions.

At Harvest Festival, Advent, Christmas and other major festival days the whole school visits the church for an act of worship. At other times, including Mothering Sunday, some staff and children take part in worship at the parish church. On appropriate occasions we use our outdoor school grounds for whole school worship. Wherever our worship takes place, our pupils are encouraged to play an active role in Collective Worship, leading and evaluating where appropriate.

Content and Approach

We believe our acts of worship are clearly Christian in nature but are universal in their application. Through these acts of worship, pupils are presented with opportunities to:

- Hear and respond to stories from the Bible and other sacred texts.
- Celebrate festivals from Christianity and other faith groups.
- Reflect on current events.
- Share in appreciating the talents and experiences of others.
- Experience different forms of worship including prayer, stillness, silence, music and drama.
- Learn about Christian and other organisations, sometimes through visitors.
- Share in appreciating the natural world and our stewardship of the world around us.
- Reflect and respond to school community issues.
- Hear and respond to literature with implicit or explicit religious teaching.
- Plan, lead and evaluate their own collective worship.

All worship leaders are required to:

- Respect the life choices of children and other participants particularly being sensitive to those of the Christian faith, or of other faiths or with no faith.
- Ensure that their worship addresses the needs, interests, backgrounds and abilities of the children and uses a variety of aesthetic materials and other stimuli and active learning styles.
- Provide opportunities for participation by the children, including regular opportunities for children to lead parts of or all worship.
- include opportunities for appropriate prayer and reflection

Resources

Money from the school budget is used for resourcing collective worship. Visual aids, music and books are purchased as needed. Parents and families and governors are regularly invited and encouraged to attend acts of worship. We use the Values for Life resource file, Roots and Fruits series and other relevant texts to support our programme of Collective Worship.

Evaluation and Review

Where appropriate, evaluations of collective worship will be carried out by both pupils, staff, parents and governors to inform future planning. Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship.

Withdrawal

Great care is taken in our Collective Worship to ensure that all children feel valued and special. Collective Worship at our school is an all-inclusive activity. Parents do have the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship if they wish but we hope such a situation will not need to arise. Parents who have concerns about the provision and practice of our Collective Worship are strongly encouraged to contact the Headteacher.