



HUSTWAITE AND SESSAY CE FEDERATION POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP



Rationale

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship in our schools takes place daily in accordance with current legislative requirements.

Collective Worship is led by the teaching staff and special visitors e.g. The 'Open the Book' volunteers and local clergy. Teaching staff are always present.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship if they wish.

In planning the collective worship policy the school has taken into account the following issues and has tried to provide:

- An effective and evolving pattern of themes for collective worship based on the school's values;
- Conceptual coherence and material appropriate to the age and stage of development of the pupils;
- The flexibility to respond to changing circumstances both in and out of school.

The school has included a range of types of worship:-

- Staff led;
- Assemblies led by visitors;
- Pupil involvement;
- Times of celebration;
- Opportunities for reflection and quiet;
- Storytelling;
- The creative and expressive arts;
- The sharing of knowledge, information and achievement;
- Exploration of biblical text and the use of symbolism.

The approach of the school is educational and, where appropriate, curricular, linked with themes that are being studied in school. While most of the acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold some assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and wider community.

Aims for Collective Worship

The school endeavours to promote through an understanding of spiritual, moral and social development:-

- Wonder in the presence of the marvels of the natural world;
- Delight at being alive in the modern world with all it means and offers;
- Expression of emotions and feelings;
- A sense of fellowship between people;
- Attitudes, behaviour and responsibilities towards others, reflecting the school of tolerance, support and understanding;
- Admiration for the human virtues of decency, honesty, self sacrifice, courage etc;
- Concern at the sight of cruelty, injustice, exploitation etc;
- Appreciation of beauty, truth and love.

We aim to provide opportunities for:-

- Worshipping God;

- Considering moral, social and cultural issues and their development;
- Exploring our own beliefs;
- Encouraging participation and response;
- Experiencing forms of Christian worship mainly within the Anglican tradition and the cycle of the Church year;
- To offer space for meditation, reflection, prayer and silence.

Criteria of Collective Worship

The themes are linked with the curriculum/school values and presented in a variety of ways and through a variety of media. They are meaningful and of value. They recognise the stage of readiness for worship of each child. They are educationally acceptable in content and suitable for the children present.

Content and Approach

- Celebration of the festivals of Christianity;
- Information on major festivals and other faiths;
- Presentation of bible stories;
- Topical materials from local and national news;
- Literature with implicit and explicit religious or moral teaching;
- Appreciation of the natural world and human activity;
- Appreciation of the talents, achievements, work of ourselves and others;
- Prayer in different forms – formal, children’s own, silence and meditation.

Children enter and leave the place of collective worship to appropriate music. They are expected to sit quietly and be attentive. The school always has a hymn and a prayer.

At Harvest, Christmas and Easter the school has special celebrations to which parents and members of the wider community are invited. Each school has strong links with its local church (St Cuthbert’s and St Nicholas’) and visits for services and special occasions. At Christmas, Easter and Harvest time the school has special celebrations to which parents and members of the wider community are invited.

Co-ordinator for Collective Worship: Mrs Sowray (Sessay) and Mrs Warriner (Husthwaite)

Date: Nov 2016

Review date: Nov 2018