



CANON BURROWS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

OUR VALUES



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

At Canon Burrows, Collective worship is an affirmation and celebration of the school's eighteen Christian values, ethos and mission statement. Worship is an important activity within the life of the school. It is a spiritual occasion, a time for pupils and staff to contemplate and reflect upon the meaning and mystery of life. We understand worship to be a special act or occasion which enables pupils to learn about the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and to praise God.

Schools are required by law to have a daily act of collective worship that is wholly or mainly of Christian character. Collective worship at Canon Burrows, involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in collective worship. We conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

MISSION STATEMENT

Education at Canon Burrows is based on the premise that each child is made in the image of God and is special precious and unique. Each child has the right to develop morally, spiritually, academically and physically to his/her full potential and will do so, given the right educational context.

AIMS AND PURPOSE

Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and will:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation, response, enquiry and reflection
- To develop a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- To teach children how to worship and experience various styles of worship
- To introduce children to Christian, prayers, language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year.
- To foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.

ORGANISATION AND DELIVERY

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each day's assembly, which is a combination of whole school, key stage, and class assemblies.

Worship is held in the hall, where there is an altar with various artefacts to form a focal point. We have altar cloths in liturgical colours, mirroring the church year and there are banners made by children with the symbols of world faiths. Music is played as children enter and leave the hall to encourage an atmosphere of celebration and/or reflection. The Lord's Prayer is recited regularly, along with other pieces of Anglican Liturgy.

We tell children that worship time is a period of celebration and reflection. Collective worship is a special time and children are expected to behave in an appropriate way. We expect them to be thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer, hymns and songs. We use songs, story, drama, music, hymns and silence in our school worship. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, candles or other artefacts as a focal point for the attention of the children. Each person responds as a unique individual. No-one's faith or integrity are compromised and everyone should find some gain from their presence there.

The Headteacher, Deputy and other staff members normally conduct collective worship, and local clergy, representatives of local religious groups and community members are also invited to lead worship. Class assemblies, celebration and special acts of worship also take place.

We take the themes of our worship from traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar and other faiths. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the Religious Education and wider school curriculum. We plan our worship as part of a series of themes: half termly on a two year cycle. However, when newsworthy or world events occur rapid response assemblies take place.

Our collective worship reflects the achievements and learning of children. We encourage the children to participate in worship by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate children's achievements both in and out of school. It plays an important part in promoting the ethos of Canon

Burrows, which is that all children are special, precious and unique and all achievements are recognised and valued.

We invite parents/carers and community members to regular collective worship and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and this is a practical demonstration of the way the home, the community and school work together to support the achievements of children.

We welcome governors' attendance at our worship at any time.

The children also attend at least three services in Church each year: a carol service, Harvest Festival and a service to celebrate Eucharist and the Last Supper, plus two other family services, which are led by the pupils of Canon Burrows.

ROLE OF THE CO-ORDINATOR

The co-ordinator is responsible for supporting staff in their planning of worship where necessary. The co-ordinator is also responsible for organising and replenishing resources and for monitoring all aspects of worship within the school.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. A record is kept of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The co-ordinator monitors whole school and class acts of worship throughout the year, alongside the head teacher and governors. Staff, Governors, parents and pupils are asked for their opinions through a questionnaire, in discussion groups and their views are taken into account in future planning of worship.

It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for Religious Education and Collective Worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the governors on RE and Collective Worship.

Policy Written by Zoe McQuillan 5th March 2020

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