



CANON BURROWS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Schools are required by law to have a daily act of collective worship that is wholly or mainly of Christian character. At Canon Burrows it 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 Jesus Christ and to praise God. Collective worship 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.

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

The aims and purposes of collective worship are:

- 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

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.

We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm 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 assemblies, 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 assemblies 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 school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes: half termly on a two year cycle. However, when incidents or issues occur rapid response assemblies take place. Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies 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 to assembly on a weekly basis 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 and school work together to support the achievements of children. We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

RECORD OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

A record of collective worship is kept in the leader file along with resources and delivery notes.

Resources, fabric drapes and artefacts for collective worship are stored in the collective worship resource cupboard (grey near stairs)

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

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.