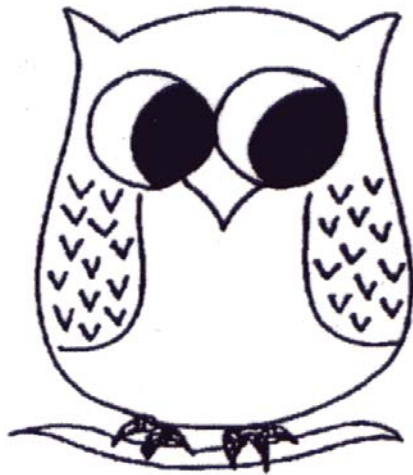


UPTON SNODSBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND FIRST SCHOOL



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

1 Introduction

A daily act of collective worship is a key feature of each day at Upton Snodsbury C of E First School. It is also a statutory requirement that such an act takes place each day. However, parents do have the right by law to withdraw their child from worship time if they so wish. (Education Reform Act 1988).

Collective worship at Upton Snodsbury is of a broadly Christian nature. However, care is taken not to alienate children of a non-Christian background who have an equal need, right and opportunity to worship.

2 Aims of Collective Worship

The aims of collective worship at Upton Snodsbury C of E First School are:

- ❖ to increase the sensitivity of pupils to the mystery of life and allow time to reflect on it;
- ❖ to explore and share beliefs;
- ❖ to consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence;
- ❖ to consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives;
- ❖ to think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community;
- ❖ to appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them;
- ❖ to reaffirm, interpret and put into practice the values of the school;
- ❖ to celebrate the value of members of the local community that are held to be of worth.

3 Objectives

In order to meet these stated aims, the daily act of worship will seek to enhance the spiritual, moral, cultural and social development of the children.

Spiritual Development

Children will be given opportunities and encouraged to:

- ❖ reflect and contemplate in listening and quiet times;
- ❖ use their imagination and express their thoughts, feelings and ideas;
- ❖ express wonder;
- ❖ raise probing questions and reflect on questions raised by others.

Children will be encouraged to develop a personal recognition of right and wrong by:

- ❖ listening to stories from Christian or other faith backgrounds which demonstrate good overcoming evil;
- ❖ being made aware of world issues from our time or the past;

- ❖ being encouraged to reflect on and discuss issues of fairness and justice.

Cultural Development

Children will be guided to acknowledge worth in cultural diversity by:

- ❖ recognising and celebrating their own cultural heritage;
- ❖ recognising the cultural heritage of other groups or races;
- ❖ being made aware of significant festivals of other faith groups.

Social Development

Children will be encouraged to a growing awareness of their social needs and responsibilities as a member of a group or community by:

- ❖ having opportunities to show concern for the needs of others;
- ❖ having time to reflect on their own needs;
- ❖ recognising achievement both in themselves and others;
- ❖ feeling the experience of being part of a caring community and a wider community beyond that.

4 The Act of Worship

The collective act of worship takes place in the Year 3/4 classroom and may be led by any member of the teaching staff, a visiting speaker, Archdeacon Roger Morris, Governors or members of the PCC (Open the Book). We invite parents and older members of the community (they are then welcomed into school for tea and cakes) to church services at St Kenelm's. These services are led by children. We encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian Faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. The themes follow a two year rolling programme which may be subject to occasional change.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold some that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that this time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayers and hymns. We

create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The act of worship may include one or more stimuli from the following list according to the leader's choice and plan:

- ❖ a song or hymn;
- ❖ a story;
- ❖ a guided reflection;
- ❖ an act of drama;
- ❖ a known prayer;
- ❖ a responsorial prayer;
- ❖ a picture or artefact;
- ❖ a natural object;
- ❖ posters or written material.
- ❖ a film or video clip.

Major religious festivals, both Christian and other faiths are celebrated as do events of school, local or national significance - the long term plan is sufficiently flexible to allow this to happen.

Involvement by the children is encouraged through:

- ❖ helping as 'monitors' at the beginning and end of worship time;
- ❖ taking part in short acts of drama or practical activities during the act of worship;
- ❖ allowing children to share their thoughts and knowledge with the whole school community in connection with the day's topic;
- ❖ choosing hymns.
- ❖ applauding the achievements of fellow school members or significant figures in the wider community.
- ❖ leading worship

5 Resources

The following resources are available for use in the preparation and delivery of the daily act of worship:

- ❖ table and cover;
- ❖ table top wooden cross;
- ❖ candle and candle holder;
- ❖ an advent candle is provided for use during Advent;
- ❖ a wide range of books;
- ❖ sets of hymn books;

- ❖ a range of recorded music on disc;
- ❖ other faith artefacts.

Collective Worship Long Term Planning Grid - 2011/12

TERM ONE Autumn	TERM TWO Spring	TERM THREE Summer
New Start	Gifts	Talents
Pattern	Communication	Animals
The World in Danger	Fame	Caring
Things that make you wonder	Perseverance	Telling the Truth (Ascension Day)
Harvest	Special Books	Saying Thank you
Autumn Days	Love	Courage
Keeping a Promise	Lenten Customs	Water
How Other People Live	Faith through Action	Family Celebrations
Remembering	Mothers	Other Faiths' Special Occasions
Strength and Weakness	Saints	Summer Days
Customs	Winter into Spring	Journeys
Across the Atlantic	Holy Week	Fair Play
Worship around the World		Holidays
		School Life

Collective Worship Long Term Planning Grid - 2010/11

TERM ONE Autumn	TERM TWO Spring	TERM THREE Summer
Beginnings	Old and New	In the News
The Helping Hand	Symbols	Flowers - beauty in God's World
Autumn	Books	Joy and Happiness
Food	Education	The Environment
People with a Purpose	Friendship	The Senses
Precious things	Forgiveness	Playing the Game
Listening	Lent	Success and Failure
Light and Dark	Colour	Exploration
Remembrance	Spring	Leaders
Stories Jesus told	Family	Houses and Homes
Children	Other Spring festivals	Sharing
Advent	Easter	Moving
Winter		
Christmas Thoughts		

This policy was approved in Summer 2011

The policy will be reviewed in 3 years