



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN OUR FEDERATED SCHOOLS

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age children take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

We recognise that in asking our children to worship we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child’s family is respected at all times.

Parents of a child at our schools have a right to withdraw their child from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship the schools must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Headteacher.

The policy should be read in conjunction with the curriculum and equality policies.

ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES of HEADTEACHER, STAFF and GOVERNORS

The Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) and will ensure that:

- the governing body is consulted about the broad nature and arrangements for collective worship
- a daily act of collective worship is provided
- alternative provision is made for pupils whose parents/carers request that they do not attend the collective worship.

All staff are invited to participate in and make an active contribution to collective worship, and encourage children to become actively involved. Staff may also withdraw from collective worship.

The governing body will consider before approving the arrangements for collective worship.

VALUES AND AIMS

We believe at our Federated schools that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. 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:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the schools and wider communities
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in every day situations and beliefs
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- 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 Federation. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every child may feel involved.

OBJECTIVES

We see school worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives. We use this time to encourage children to:

- Show interest in, and a concern for, members of our schools' communities
- Celebrate special occasions together
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local communities and the wider world
- Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within our schools
- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life – the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful, solemn....;
- Reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings, through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people.

ORGANISATION

Collective worship is intended to be appropriate for and include all children attending our schools. The leaders of Collective Worship should be aware of the needs of all children attending the worship and prepare materials accordingly. The timing can be flexible

Routines for Assemblies are as follows:-

Magdalen Village School		
Monday	9.15am	Whole School Celebration Assembly (Headteacher)
Tuesday	9.15am	Class - Story
Wednesday	9.15am	Whole School – Story
Thursday	9.15am	Whole School - Singing
Friday	9.15am	Whole School – Super Learners (including Best Work)

St Germans Primary School		
Monday	2.50pm	Whole School- Introduction to Theme
Tuesday	2.50pm	Whole School - Super Learners (including Best Work)
Wednesday	2.50pm	Whole School - Story
Thursday	2.50pm	Whole School Celebration Assembly (Headteacher)
Friday	1.10pm	Whole School – Singing



Wimbotsham & Stow Community Primary School		
Monday	2.40pm	Seal Assembly - Hilary Tutin
Tuesday	2.40pm	Singing - Kath Davies
Wednesday	2.40pm	Whole School Celebration Assembly (Headteacher)
Thursday	2.40pm	Theme - Martin Taylor Bennett
Friday	2.40pm	Theme - Susie Johnson

SUCCESS CRITERIA

At our Federation we evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

- Involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of children
- The growth of respect and tolerance within the schools communities
- Positive response to shared experience
- An atmosphere which matches the theme
- A contribution to individual and communities sense of well being
- A sense of occasion
- Good order
- Staff affirmation
- A sense of challenge
- A place in the overall plan of our Federated schools
- Enrichment of child's experience

VISITORS

We enjoy the fresh approach which visitors can bring to our schools' worship, but we require them to adhere to our values. All visitors are issued with this policy and, unless otherwise agreed, will fit into the theme for the week.

We have made links with some people who visit us regularly to lead worship.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING and EVALUATION

The Learning Committee will receive a report from the Assistant Head (Magdalen) annually on the themes covered in the daily acts of collective worship and how they complement the Federation's aims and values. The Assistant Head will also report on the numbers withdrawn and the effectiveness of the alternative arrangements.