



Abberley Parochial V.C. Primary School

Inspiring Hearts & Minds

Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed November 2015

The staff and governors at Abberley Parochial V.C. Primary School see the main purpose of the school as that of providing an excellent education both academic and social in a Christian context for all its pupils.

One of the school's main aims is the achievement of high academic standards and a sense of personal worth for all its pupils through encouraging them to do their best and fulfil their individual potential. Subject to its physical capacity our school welcomes all children, whatever their family faith, whose parents wish an education in a Christian context for their children.

Current Organisation of Collective Worship at our School

At our school collective worship is placed at the centre of the school's daily life in accordance with statutory requirements. Worship is organised on both a key stage and a whole school basis and is led by staff, visitors and pupils.

One of the ways our school fulfils its Christian character is through a close relationship with the local Parish Church. Services are held in the local church during the school year and ministers are invited into school on a regular basis to lead worship and take part in the children's religious education classes.

We can reassure parents, however, that our school exerts no pressure on children to become worshipping Christians or to take part in any activity that will compromise their own family beliefs. The spiritual, social, cultural and moral welfare of all pupils is of prime concern to us as a school. However, as a church school Christian values are built into our ethos and teaching and are reflected in the themes on which our daily acts of worship are based. A copy of the themes used in our collective worship programme is available to all parents upon request.

The Nature of Collective Worship at our School

At Abberley Primary School the definition of worship has evolved through consultation with staff, governors, parents and the diocese.

Worship is defined as the gathering together of our school community to learn about and to praise God.

It therefore involves the school gathering together to express feelings of respect and worth for ourselves, others, for our local community and our world as gifts from God.

All staff and governors are committed to ensuring that the worship opportunities offered to pupils pay due regard to family background, to their ages, their aptitudes and their interests. Our worship co-ordinator is therefore in regular dialogue with Governors, parents, staff and Church Ministers to ensure that the materials we use are appropriate both to our school context and to the families whom we serve. As a school we also encourage the children to take ownership of the collective

worship programme. The CREW (Collective RE Worship) group meets on a weekly basis and plays an active role in the planning of collective worship of school.

Learning Expectations and Intended Outcomes

Education, celebration, praise and hope are therefore essential features of worship at Abberley Primary School. Our aim through worship is primarily to educate our children and make them aware of what it means to be part of a community committed to serving and caring for each other, God and our environment.

Pupils are therefore invited rather than compelled to explore issues for themselves, reflect upon and learn from their own experiences and the experiences of others, develop sensitivity and a sense of wonder, awe and mystery for the world of which they are part.

Equal Opportunities

Our school worship is therefore about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. During collective worship we consider our common concerns and responsibilities and develop positive attitudes and values. It is about affirming the equality of each individual in God's sight, whatever a child's gender, ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

Special Educational Needs

The staff and governors at Abberley Primary School are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from collective worship, whatever their academic ability. Every attempt is made, therefore to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests.

Delivering Collective Worship at our School

In our school the process of worship takes place through a variety of media, song, story, drama, music, poetry, etc. It takes place through class assemblies as well as adult-led worship time and the children are involved as much as possible.

All collective worship in our school is timetabled and is usually held before lunch time. We hold a number of key stage assemblies each week so that the assembly themes can be differentiated and the children can be involved at their level. We also have whole school assemblies including celebration assemblies which value and reward children's achievements both in and out of school.

All staff and pupils currently take part in collective worship, a position governors actively encourage, though the right to withdraw exists. The scheme "Values for Life" is used including the accompanying CD. This is organised into topics and a topic is usually covered each half term. Staff complete a record sheet showing details of the theme resources and strategies they have used. These are handed in to the Co-ordinator along with other curriculum planning documents on a half-termly basis. If a child is withdrawn from Collective Worship they will be able to read in the library.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Evaluation strategies currently used by staff for assessing the outcomes of collective worship are:

- a) observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest shown during the sessions
- b) classroom feedback from pupils, written and verbal
- c) parents' comments, written and verbal
- d) observation of the children's general behaviour in and around school and to one another
- e) discussion between staff at staff meetings.

Resources

A variety of resources, in addition to the "Values for Life" folder and CD, are stored in the R.E boxes which each cover a different religion. The worship co-ordinator and church ministers are also available to give advice and support to staff and visitors where the planning and delivery of collective worship is concerned.

There is a Collective Worship table outside class 1 which is available to the children for quiet reflection or to look at the display of children's prayers or work related to the assembly themes or to just hold the resources such as handheld crosses.

Family assemblies are held once every half term in the Village Hall to accommodate numbers. Where possible church services are used for Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

SignedJ. Hill, Chair of Governors

DateJuly 2014.....