

'Live a life of love, just as Jesus loved us.' (Ephesians 5:2)

Introduction

'Small school, big Heart - making a difference. Our school provides the Christian foundation for children to grow and flourish, whilst inspiring ambition. Everyone is a valued member of the school family which empowers them to achieve their very best. Our nurturing environment ensures each child becomes a confident and curious life-long learner.

At Witchampton CE First school we believe that collective worship plays a very important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children. It should be of the highest quality.

We have readdressed our school aims to reflect our spiritual values, learning ethos and culture in our school. We hold the bible reference 'Live a life of love, just as Jesus loved us' (Ephesians 5: 2) very dearly to us at Witchampton First School. This is underpinned by the story of the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes (Matthew 14: 13-21) Our Christian values enable us to inspire others, build courage and show respect - all through love'

The staff model these values to enable the children to develop these themselves, with the intention of creating learners for life.

Statutory Duty of School

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation. The School meets this requirement and is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states that all maintained schools in England must provide a daily act of collective worship. This must reflect the traditions of this country which are, in the main, broadly Christian.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship and sixth-formers can decide for themselves whether or not to attend, without giving a reason for doing so. Schools must comply with this wish and must ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Organisation of Worship

The daily acts of collective worship are planned to invite everyone to participate in a variety of experiences to develop spirituality through reflection as well as an understanding of Christianity. We use the 'Oscar Owl' Out of the Box resource to structure our worship with welcome, learn, reflect and respond. Our worship enables us to reflect on and respond to things which we as a school community believe are important in preparing children to be responsible citizens now and in the future. The experiences include involving children in sharing relevant stories and current events, (Biblical, moral, multi-cultural, multi-faith or topical); Guided Imagery, Images, Drama, Poetry, Music, Audio Visual, and Singing. Each collective worship opens with the phrase 'Jesus is the light of the world, let his light shine on me,' and closes with our bible verse 'Live a life of love, just as Jesus loved us', reminding children to go out into the world doing everything through love.

Monday – Whole school worship, relating to our half termly value. This give children a focus for the week, which is revisited in each worship during the week.

Tuesday- Singing worship

Wednesday – A visitor from the clergy or our local ‘Open the Book’ team, normally in the church.

Thursday – Class worship These worships are based on the worship value for the half term, and allow children to reflect personally ,inviting all children to respond to our worship theme, which is often added to a whole school collective worship display.

Friday – Celebration Worship. Learning and behaviour is celebrated through Stars of the Week certificates. Children are also welcome to bring in and share achievements they accomplish outside of school.

Half termly- Crown worship led by the Headteacher. This is a very special worship which is to recognise and celebrate 1 child from each class who adults have noticed have gone above and beyond. The child’s family is invited to come to the worship and children are awarded a crown on which is written the reasons for the award.

The worship should last approximately 15-20 minutes.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers is used including the Lord’s Prayer and prayers shared by the children. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. During the school day, each class say a lunchtime and an end of the day prayer. These can be led by the class teacher or the children themselves.

Implementation

Collective worship will:

- Be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- Include a variety of elements at different times
- Involve the pupils.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The worships from the beginning of the week are reflected upon in a weekly class worship. This process of revisiting a worship’s theme allows the teachers to discover what the children have remembered, understood and learned from the worships. The discussion provides an opportunity to help develop a deeper understanding and for the teacher to support children in their understanding if needed. This feedback from the children then allows the teacher to have a good understanding of what the children have understood to help inform future planning.

The Collective Worship Leader monitors Collective Worship by carrying out surveys with the children and staff, to review what is going well and what needs to be improved.

The right of parents to withdraw their child.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from Religious Education(RE) and collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending any RE or collective worship at the school the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. A school remains

responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn from RE or collective worship, unless the child is lawfully receiving RE, or taking part in collective worship elsewhere. Parents do not need to explain their reasons for seeking withdrawal. The DfES recommends that, to avoid misunderstanding, a head teacher may wish to clarify with any parent wanting to withdraw:

- The religious issues about which the parent would object their child being taught
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- The circumstances in which it would be reasonable to accommodate parents wishes
- If a parent will require any advanced notice of such issue in the future and if so, how much

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.