

Saxton CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy *"Individual Colours, Together a Rainbow"*

Rationale

As a Christian School, we encourage everyone to care for others as well as themselves and to strive to be the best we can be. We seek to inspire learners for tomorrow's world, today, through creativity, quality and enjoyment.

We aim to find the talents that lie within each individual. We hope to promote the enjoyment of lifelong learning and to equip pupils with the skills, knowledge and confidence to take with them out into the wider world.

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose 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 and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes; to teach children how to worship.

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to 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 the assembly.

In line with the Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base our worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct these sessions 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 worship which reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Organisation of collective worship

We deliver a daily act of collective worship in our school. This can be either class worship or whole school worship.

They are conducted in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a 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 prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using a lit candle, music and sometimes objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The head teacher or other members of staff normally conduct Acts of Worship, but at least once a month local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith, in particular, Values For Life and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. The themes of our worship reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. Simply Worship supports planning for collective worship.

Our Celebration Assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in these assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised as important.

We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies / worship at any time.

Right of withdrawal

All children are expected to attend assembly. 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. The head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Equal Opportunities

We will endeavor to ensure that this policy is applied consistently to all learners. This will be irrespective of gender, race, cultural background or disability.

Responsibilities

The governing body will ensure that appropriate resources are made available to effectively implement this policy in school. The head teacher will manage the use of these resources so that class teachers are empowered to implement this policy. It is the responsibility of all staff to implement this policy effectively and consistently. It is the responsibility of parents and carers to support the school in implementing this policy with their children.

Monitoring

The Governors will monitor the effectiveness of this policy. Through everyday routines the Head teacher will ensure that school practice reflects the guidelines included in the policy. This may take the form of informal monitoring of lessons, formal lesson observations, or work scrutiny. The LA will monitor the impact of this policy through the work of the SIP, who will quality-assure the judgments that the school makes about the effectiveness of teaching. The policy will also be monitored by OFSTED during their inspection visits.

Review

This policy was last updated in September 2017 and is due for review September 2019

Headteacher.....Chair SIC