



WEST TYNE FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

Collective Worship Policy

Our Vision..... Inspire, Support, Believe, Achieve

Our Mission.....

Our values-based schools nurture curiosity and creativity through an inspiring, broad and engaging curriculum, where learning is at the heart of all that we do. Our children learn to become resilient and self-assured in an environment where safety is paramount. Everyone is challenged and encouraged to thrive and achieve as individuals, preparing them for their role as caring and active citizens in modern Britain.

The Federation is committed to the personal development of all involved and aim to provide life- long learning.

We aim to provide extended facilities in both our schools in order to support each child on their learning journey.

Policy Statement

The West Tyne Church School's view the daily act of collective worship as an integral and important part of school life.

Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement.

Inspire, Support, Believe, Achieve

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Christian Values

Although difficult to define, we identify the values of forgiveness, fairness, respect and tolerance of others, integrity, compassion, honesty and self worth.

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

We blend Christian teaching and values education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

Legal Requirements.

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Executive Headteacher.

Organisation.

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday: Together in worship assembly and hymn

Tuesday: Special item assembly (Child led)

Wednesday: School council assembly (Child led)

Thursday: Whole school hymn and singing practice, with prayer/reflection time

Friday: Celebration Assembly led by the Executive Headteacher or the Senior Teacher.

Occasionally, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship. We aim to include the children in the planning and delivery of our Collective Worship, wherever possible.

The worship should last approximately 15 minutes.

Planning, Content and Detail.

The themes for collective worship reflect our Values focus for the term, the Church calendar, the Federation ethos and current events. The worship begins with the children

entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music for the week. The title of this music is shared with the children and could come from a variety of cultures. Sometimes music is chosen by children. The candle on the alter table is lit by an Upper Key Stage child and the worship begins. The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with a prayer. The candles are then blown out before messages are given. This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played.

Hymn and singing practice includes the lighting of the candle to focus the children's attention and aims to develop the children's understanding of new hymns as well as learning them. The session ends with a time for reflection or a prayer before the candle is blown out and messages given. The children leave in the same manner as before.

The Celebration assembly celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school. Normally, teachers choose a member of their class to receive a special mention and certificate. This takes place after the children have sung a hymn and the candle has been lit. Once the children have received a round of applause, a prayer is said and the candle is blown out.

Every class leads whole school worship once a year and parents are invited in to share the experience with the children. These are usually linked to recent learning or to the values that we have been focussing on.

Prayer and Reflection.

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. The school is actively developing the children's confidence in reciting simple liturgy. At the beginning of the whole school worship led by a teacher, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of a candle. A cross is also displayed above the alter table.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by either an adult or child in each class. Prayers are also said at the end of the school day. Every classroom has a Reflective Area, where the Values of the term are explicitly shared. Children can use these spaces if they need a moment to reflect during the school day.

The school has a Prayer Tree in the hall. Children are encouraged to write short prayers and clip them onto the tree. Sometimes these are related to the termly values, on other occasions this could be a personal prayer.

Other Faiths.

Worship in the Federation reflects our Christian beliefs and values but we are also committed to respecting each other's faith, stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupil's beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of curriculum requirements.

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring.

A file is kept, recording details of each act of worship. Evaluations will also be recorded here. Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship.

Visits and Visitors.

As part of the curriculum, the Federation ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first – hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St Cuthbert's Church and All Hallow's Church are our most valuable and frequently used resources, with both schools attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services.

Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues.

- Children may be withdrawn from RE lessons and Collective Worship at the wish of their parents. The Executive Headteacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.
- In line with the Northumberland Advisory Council for Religious Education development plan, the role of link governor for R.E. has been created by the governing body. The R.E. coordinator and link governor liaise to discuss various aspects of R.E., including Collective Worship, and this ensures an effective line of communication between the coordinator and the governing body.

Equal Opportunities and Special Needs Issues.

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

Signed: *S. Hutchinson*

Date: September 2017

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