



FRINGFORD C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY STATEMENT



Current Date: March 2016
Review Date: March 2019

Definition

Collective worship enables the school as a whole, to experience the mystery and wonder of life and the world and to develop spiritual and moral values. It involves both children and adults in responding to wonder, awe, mystery, celebration, reverence, reflection, fellowship, awareness, thanksgiving and praise. For any children whose families belong to different Faith communities, it offers the opportunity to worship God in their own way.

Aims

To encourage a sense of awe and wonder and foster a respect for the world, its people and their Faiths.

To create an atmosphere in which those who wish to can pray, reflect or meditate and worship God.

To encourage many forms of communication and expression including music, singing, prayer, rituals, story, poems, drama, dance, symbols, etc.

To enable children to learn from Christianity, and other Faiths in a way that promotes their spiritual, moral, cultural and cognitive development and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Guidelines

The Education Reform Act 1988 requires “The arrangements for the collective act of worship be made by the governors after consultation with the Headteacher”. The Act specifies that “All pupils in attendance shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship” unless parents request that they are excluded”. We seek to provide an assembly each day which is central to the life of the school and includes an “act of collective worship”. We encourage all children and staff to take part in collective worship. Any concerns about collective worship should be addressed to the Headteacher and Governors.

Fringford is a Controlled Church of England School. We use the Parish Church for occasional acts of collective worship such as for celebrations at Christmas, Harvest and Easter and sometimes for Religious Education. The school has pupils from a variety of religious traditions and the staff are sensitive to the needs of children from different faiths. It is the Governors intention that acts of worship should provide the opportunity for sharing and celebration between pupils of all Faith backgrounds.

Assembly, including collective worship, is part of the whole school curriculum, and is educational for all members of the school community as follows:

1. A basic framework is provided by the cycle of the Christian year including Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days.



2. Themes are based on the School Values and are appropriate to the pupils' age and stages of development, but with some flexibility to respond to changing situations or special events.
3. There will be opportunities to celebrate and study other faith festivals, e.g. Jewish New Year, Ramadan, Eid, Divali, Chinese New Year etc. during the child's time at the school.

In addition there are whole school celebration assemblies and the special Leavers' Assembly for Year 6 children before they transfer to Secondary School. This assembly takes place in the Village Hall and all parents, friends, and Governors are welcome. Assemblies will also reflect the world in which we live and may be held in response to World events such as disasters, special achievements, or deaths of famous people. Events affecting the school in particular are also recognised. Assemblies usually last for twenty minutes but may be extended on some occasions.

Collective worship will include the exploration of silence through stillness and meditation. There will be Christian prayers, some prayers from different faiths and also time for private devotions. Hymns and songs may be chosen from a collection that the children know and are linked to the main theme of the assembly where possible. CD's and websites such as Sing Up! are available to provide the music for suitable songs. The Bible and other books can be used for drama and story, for providing opportunities for reflection and deeper understanding

A member of the Shelswell Clergy visits the school once a week (Thursday 10.10 a.m.) to lead an assembly with all the children present from Years 1 to 6. Other visitors lead the assembly occasionally and these will reflect particular themes, interests or times of the year e.g. Remembrance Day, Children in Need, Dr Barnardos, Book Week or a speaker from a different faith or country.

Assemblies involve the whole school meeting together in the school hall giving children an opportunity to learn how to behave in large social gatherings, how to perform in front of an audience and respond to such a performance. Children in Classes 2, 3 and 4 attend all school-based assemblies. Year 1 children in Class 1 also attend.

