



DEEPING ST NICHOLAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

September 2015

Philosophy

Deeping St Nicholas Primary School is a Community school. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. It is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

At Deeping St Nicholas Primary School we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our students Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Aims

It is our aim at Deeping St Nicholas Primary School that worship should: -

- ✓ Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child;
- ✓ Support the Social and Emotional development of our pupils through making use of the SEAL programme when appropriate;
- ✓ Give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community;
- ✓ Allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings;
- ✓ Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals;
- ✓ Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others;
- ✓ Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God;
- ✓ Provide members of the school community with the opportunity experience stillness and quiet;
- ✓ Provide members of the school community with the opportunity respond to Christian language and symbolism;
- ✓ Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These could include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection;
- ✓ To help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship;
- ✓ Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future;
- ✓ Welcome members of the extended school community to share in worship on at least three occasions during the school year.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

To provide pupils with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for pupils in different class groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day. At Deeping St Nicholas Primary School this is currently 2.50 pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday Fridays. On Tuesdays the hall is used for Gymnastics and so there will be an assembly in the classroom on those days.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the head teacher who after consultation with the governing body was given the responsibility for co-ordinating Collective Worship in the school.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that: -

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, e.g. The Parables and the Sermon on the Mount
- Sharing with pupils the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as Love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship at Deeping St Nicholas Primary School take into account the pupil's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

The head teacher and governors may apply for a determination from SACRE if there are a large number of pupils in the school from a particular non-Christian faith background. It is not anticipated that this would be appropriate at this time.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image, a moment of silence and reflection etc

Rights of Withdrawal

At Deeping St Nicholas Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community; however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for pupils withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Deeping St Nicholas Primary School.

This right of withdrawal doesn't extend to assemblies.

Organisation

Day	Person Leading	Time	Venue
Monday	Headteacher	2.50 pm	School Hall
Tuesday	Class Teacher	2.50 pm	Classroom
Wednesday	Headteacher	2.50 pm	School Hall
Thursday	Headteacher	2.50 pm	School Hall
Friday	Headteacher	2.50 pm	School Hall

Captain Paul from the local Anglican Church, Reverend Ann Bossingham from the local Methodist Church and Reverend Saunders of the Local Baptist Church are all welcomed into Deeping St Nicholas Primary School to lead our worship by mutual agreement.

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Each term there is a theme for Collective worship. These are published at the beginning of the academic year. Those leading worship that week are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the students will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

Each person leading worship is asked to plan his or her act of worship in as much detail as they would any learning activity.

At Deeping St Nicholas Primary School one of the schools governors has a role monitoring Collective worship at the school. This is currently Reverend Garland who is also our Vice Chair of Governors.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process.

Resources

Resources for worship are kept in a small bookcase at the side of the piano in the school hall, and also in the upstairs resources room.

Overhead transparencies for Hymns are on top of the piano. There is a CD for hymn singing when the person leading worship is not a confident pianist.

A CD player is available to provide music at the beginning and end of acts of worship. Teachers wishing to light candles are advised to bring their own matches, and take responsibility for keeping them safe. They will not be stored in a regular place in school for safety reasons.