

# The Killigrew Partnership

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## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY DECEMBER 2016

### Aims

The aims and objectives of collective worship are:

- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to respond to the presence, power and peace of God;
- Evoke a sense of beauty, awe, wonder;
- Enable children to become familiar with the Bible and grow in their appreciation that for Christians it is God's word;
- Provide opportunities for reflection, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality;
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience;
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory focii and introduce them to some well known Christian prayers;
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship;
- Strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to, and reaffirming, the core Christian values which underpin the school's vision, policies, curriculum and moral code;
- Develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts that each child and adult brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God;
- Reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and learn to appreciate the significance of mystery i.e. that we can't understand and explain everything;
- Foster a concern for others within the school community and wider world;
- Deepen appreciation of the gift of the natural world and the importance of acting responsibly toward the environment;
- Enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- Encourage respect of other people's religious beliefs and practices.

### General Principles

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion showing 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 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

## **Organisation of Collective Worship**

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This can be either a whole-school assembly, a key stage assembly or a class assembly.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly 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, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the Christian ethos of the school, where all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised.

On some occasions a class or year group hold an assembly that parents are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.

The act of worship will be led by members of staff or priests, ministers and other invited visitors.

Worship is shared with governors, parents and members of local churches on specific occasions.

Worship will be planned to take account of the major festivals and seasons of the Church, and to link with the curriculum plan and other initiatives or topics of interest within the school.

Plans are made on a two year cycle, are reviewed termly and aim to provide continuity and progression, without undue repetition. Opportunities are planned to develop spirituality over a period of time.

For each half term of these two years, there is a theme for Collective worship based on the Values for Life resource; those leading worship 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 pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week. This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

Any act of worship should be an experience which is inclusive and where all children can contribute and gain.

## **Right of Withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend assembly. Any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship. In this case the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request, however, as collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of our Church school, there is an expectation

that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the Executive Headteacher or Head of School to discuss their concerns and requirements. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The collective worship co-ordinator keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship. In addition each class teacher keeps a record, in their planning, of all class assemblies that take place.

*As St Francis is a VA school teachers, including the Executive Headteacher and Head of School, do not have the right of withdrawal.*

### **Format**

There is no hard and fast format as it is essential that acts of worship have a degree of spontaneity and flexibility but the following elements are desirable.

- The act will have a clear focus or theme;
- There will be time for reflection and stillness;
- A hymn related to the main theme of worship may be sung at an appropriate place;
- Recorded or live music may be used to create an atmosphere or focus;
- A greeting is exchanged between the leader and participants;
- Included in worship may be stories, Bible readings, dramatised readings, poetry, drama, dance, artefacts or other visual aids;
- At an appropriate point prayers are said. These may be drawn from published works or from the children themselves;
- Any notices etc, will be clearly separated from the Act of Worship. This is also the case when a special time is set aside to acclaim children who have made special achievements;

### **Planning, Recording and Evaluating**

Whole school acts of worship are planned, recorded and evaluated with documentation kept in a separate file. The Executive Headteacher is the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and provides guidance and support by organising whole school themes across the year. Acts of worship held by individual classes are planned and recorded briefly in planning booklets which are collated to create a whole school overview.

Worship can be evaluated by those leading the worship, other staff, the pupils for whom the worship is intended or members of the governing body. Feedback from any of these groups will help to improve the quality of worship offered to the pupils. Paperwork is kept to a minimum.

There are specific times across the year when the whole school will focus on a united theme which will permeate many different aspects of school life.  
Monitoring of Collective Worship

Planning and provision of worship is informally monitored on a regular basis. The foundation governors have a key role in this process to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality. The Collective worship section of The National Society's Self evaluation toolkit is used as a basis for this process.

### **Inset**

Opportunities for INSET are provided through CPD and through the Diocesan Board of Education.

## **Conclusion**

At King Charles School and St Francis School, all should view collective worship as meaningful and valuable, a time when all adults and children are as one to reflect on joys, and sorrows, to express thanks, share concepts and experience and re-affirm the values of the school community and God's family, of which they are all part.

## **Monitoring and Review**

This Collective Worship Policy for The Killigrew Partnership was agreed by the Full Governing Board at their meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and will be reviewed every two years.