



St Ippolyts C of E (VA) Primary School
Diocese of St Albans

*Our principle aim:
To provide the best possible education for each
child, within the context of a caring, Christian community.*

Collective Worship Policy



Agreed – Nov 2015

St Ippolyts C of E (VA) Primary School Collective Worship Policy Policy Statement

At St. Ippolyts C of E (VA) Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as a central part of school life. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian Values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our principal aim:

‘To provide the best possible education for each child, within the context of a caring, Christian community’.

Collective Worship is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly. This will be carried out in a manner appropriate to their age, aptitude and family background and drawing upon the riches of the Anglican and other Christian traditions.

Christian Values

We identify the values of respect, truthfulness, perseverance, forgiveness, love, courage and generosity. These values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

John 13:34-35

“...love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples”.

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

Values Education

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 1996 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 legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher.

Organisation

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

Monday: Whole school worship led by the Headteacher or Assistant Head

Tuesday: Whole School Worship – this is led by all teachers under a rotational basis. Each member of staff is given a copy of the half terms value at the beginning of each half term to assist with the planning of their led worship. Each class is also given a disc to be used in Class of the hymns and music for other acts of worship.

Wednesday: We have two acts of worship – one for EYFS/KS1 and the other for KS2. The themes are based on the same value, but content is differentiated appropriately. Class teachers lead these assemblies on a rota basis.

Thursday: Whole school hymn practice, with prayer/reflection time, led by the music co-ordinator.

Friday: Whole school celebration assembly led by the Head teacher or members of SLT. (Assistant Head or EYFS/KS1 leader)

Additional Acts of Worship

Once every half term, the Young Worship Group (established in 2013) meet weekly with the Head teacher to talk about issues and plan for end of Value Collective Worship. Each class leads a class assembly once during the school year when parents' relatives and friends are invited to join us.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship. The assembly/worship should last approximately 15 minutes (this will of course vary when individual classes carry our class assemblies)

Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for Monday's collective worship reflect our Values focus for that term, the Church calendar, our school 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 piece of music is displayed for the children to see throughout the week and could come from a variety of cultures. The candles on the altar table are lit and the worship begins, with the reciting of a morning prayer by a child from Young Worship. This is followed by the singing of a weekly chosen hymn. The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with a prayer and time for reflection. The candles are then blown out before any 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.

Tuesday Staff rota based Collective Worship and Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 have planned themes for their acts of collective worship on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The format is similar to Monday's whole school worship, although, there may be times when no hymn is sung.

Thursday's hymn practice includes the lighting of a 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 candles are blown out. The children leave in the same way as before.

The Celebration assembly on Friday celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school. Teachers choose members of their class to share and show their learning in class. Children from each class then receive a special mention and are given a badge for effort, achievement or half terms value along with a certificate which is displayed on the Values board situated in the main corridor. This takes place after the children have sung the hymn. Once the children have received a round of applause, a prayer is said, led by adult or child.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers is 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. At the beginning of the whole school worship led by the Headteacher or members of staff, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candle alongside a short morning prayer. A cross is also displayed above or on the altar table within the hall and in each class. Children are given time to write their own prayers throughout the year which are then given value by being displayed and read throughout the year.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by either an adult or child in each class. Teachers or a times children say a prayer with their class at the end of the school day.

Children are encouraged to write short prayers and leave them to be read in Collective Worship or at church services at various times throughout the year. Sometimes these are related to the Value for the Month, on other occasions this could be a personal prayer.

Other Faiths

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

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

A file is kept, recording details of each act of worship. Any evaluation will be recorded here by the Year 6 children who hold responsibilities/jobs throughout school. Children are asked how the act of Collective worship will help them in their lives and children's comments are recorded.

Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, St Ippolyts C of E (VA) School 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 Ippolyts Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services.

Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues

- Children may be withdrawn from R.E. lessons at the wish of their parents. The Headteacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.
- The Headteacher/ R.E. coordinator/Chair of Governors and Church Rev'd liaise to discuss various aspects of R.E. 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.

Our 12 School Values

Respect

Generosity

Truthfulness

Thankfulness

Perseverance

Justice

Forgiveness

Service

Love

Compassion

Courage

Trust