



Gedney Church End and Lutton St Nicholas Federated Primary Schools

Policy for Collective Worship

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Gedney Church End and Lutton St. Nicholas Federated Primary Schools

Introduction

It is the duty of the Federation to provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually provided within a daily assembly.

The Head Teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging daily collective worship after consulting with the Governing Body. Daily collective worship at Gedney Church End and Lutton St Nicholas is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. Its precise nature depends on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils.

Aims

The aim of the collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- worship God;
- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs;
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values;
- consider spiritual and moral issues;
- respond to the worship offered.

Implementation

Collective worship, whether in assembly or teaching time, will:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils;
- include a variety of elements at different times;
- involve the pupils.

The Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) provide a framework for the planning and delivery of collective worship, with the following progression, based on a 6 term year:

1. Autumn 1: New Beginnings
2. Autumn 2: Getting on and not Falling Out
3. Spring 1: Going for Goals
4. Spring 2: Good to ne Me
5. Summer 1: Relationships
6. Summer 2: Changes

A lead member of staff has been appointed who will oversee the planning of collective worship. That member of staff is Miss Ivatt. Each year, an overarching plan is published and staff are assigned slots on a weekly basis. This helps to ensure continuity and progression within worship and that timings can be more easily adhered to.

As a staff, we recognise the importance of carefully planning worship so that the children can receive the greatest benefit from this important time of day. This is broken down into three sections, as follows:

1. Encounter (Window)
2. Reflection (Mirror)
3. Transformation (Door)

The Window is the wow moment where children are asked to consider a time when someone has shown them kindness, consideration or some other emotion that is related to the weekly theme. The Mirror is the period of the assembly where the children are asked to reflect and consider how the worship has changed them in their ideas, attitudes or approach. The Door helps the children to consider what their next practical step will be as they tread the path towards greater social, spiritual and emotional fulfilment.

Across any weekly plan, it is expected that an element of Religious Education, an element of SEAL and examples from the real world will be used to bring the theme to life for the children. The Executive Head Teacher will always lead worship at the beginning of each week and the celebration assembly on Friday will provide all of the children with an opportunity to look back on what has been achieved and also any notable successes that have been experienced. Additionally, Merits, the attendance trophy, Pupil of the Week and birthdays will be celebrated at this time. Finally, if any whole-school events have taken place, sporting competitions or endeavours, time will also be found to celebrate these significant achievements.

Visitors

Our federation is committed to building strong links within the communities we serve. Part of this is to reach out to faith and other groups within society and to ensure that our children receive opportunities to engage with members of these communities. On occasion, speakers will be invited into school to lead worship. Our two standing visitors are Father Adrian and Father Jonathan, who are the parish priests within the respective benefices.

The Child Protection Policy (January 2016), under the auspices of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015), states that all schools should:

- Develop clear protocols for visitors into our schools, especially those that lead collective worship, daily assemblies or any form of curriculum provision

To this end, the federation will ensure that all visitors are carefully checked, that they have an opportunity attend an act of worship at both schools, an induction conversation is held with the Head Teacher, and that the majority of staff will attend the act of worship that has been led by the visitor. If bias or any form of indoctrination is detected, it will be the responsibility of senior staff to intervene to ensure that a balanced message is presented. Where this is suspected or confirmed, the visitor will no longer be allowed to come into school to lead worship or any other aspects of curriculum development or implementation.

The Right of Withdrawal

In **England and Wales** Parents have the statutory right under Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to withdraw their children from RE lessons and acts of Collective Worship at all maintained schools, including faith schools. Parents are not obliged to give a reason for requesting withdrawal.

The parental right to withdraw will be respected by the federation at all times. We recognise that currently, very few parents exercise this right. Many parents are reluctant to separate their child from classmates. Also, while schools are supposed to keep worship separate from other elements of assembly, many schools fail to do this, and parents may not wish for their child to miss the entire assembly.

Where a parent exercises their right of withdrawal, the Head Teacher will seek to arrange a meeting to discuss their concerns, offer reassurance, mediate or provide details as to what form of alternate provision will be made available to the child during periods of worship.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Federation will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the Federation. The lead teacher, supported by the Head Teacher, will ensure that worship is monitored on a regular basis and staff members right of withdrawal will always be respected.

Signed by Head Teacher:

Ratified by Governors: May 2011

Last Updated: January 2016