

Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

All acts of worship are in accordance with the founding Church of England Trust Deed and the Ethos Statement in the school's Instruments of Government. School worship is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian values and ethos of the school.

Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school. It is an inclusive act which encourages:

- **REFLECTION** in all present, of all faiths and none, rooted in the Christian understanding of God as Trinity.
- **BELIEF** in; God the source of all being and life; Jesus who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection; the Holy Spirit who makes the presence of Jesus known in the world.

Aims

Through collective worship in our school we aim to:

- Provide an experience of worship that will allow participants to respond to the presence, power and peace of God
- Introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year
- Explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to some well known Christian prayers, e.g. Lord's Prayer
- Strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school
- Celebrate the gifts that each person brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God
- Encourage reflection on the puzzling questions that life poses and response to the wonder and mystery of the world around us
- Foster a concern for others within the school and the wider world
- Foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it

Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of Collective Worship for all pupils which takes account of their age and aptitude. (Education Reform Act 1988). Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. Since this is a church school, however, worship is central to its life and work and is regarded as a very important part of children's education.

Organisation

This part of the policy will draw attention to the individual school's procedures and decisions.

Groupings for worship – the children and staff will all gather each day as a whole for the start of the act of collective worship and say the school prayer together. Then adults who are not undertaking the full collective worship that day may leave to undertake other tasks.

The timing of collective worship – this will be daily and for 15-20 minutes.

Who leads – a weekly rota is followed to include head, assistant head, class teachers, local clergy and visitors from the Methodist chapel and Salvation Army.

Resourcing – staff use a range of resources, based around the guidance from baranabasinschools.co.uk and assemblies.org.

Planning – Long Term planning includes the cycle of services, celebrations and events linked to the Christian calendar and where these happen within the community and the federation of schools. Medium term planning is prepared by the head teacher who directs a weekly focus for collective worship based on Jumping Fish, Values for Life and Barnabas in Schools resources. Short term planning does not follow a set format but serves the needs of each individual person leading collective worship – celebration events are planned by the Ethos Committee of the school and weekly celebrations are recorded in a book by all staff.

How worship takes account of the church year, the Bible as a source book and the Church of England's commitment to ecumenism and dialogue with other faiths – Collective worship uses the published interfaith calendar to form the focus of worship through the school year, whilst worship is Christian based it does refer and reflect on Christianity through other faiths when and where appropriate. All KS2 children have a copy of their own bible (Bibles for Children Scheme) and many stories from the Bible are identified in long and medium term plans for the children to experience and reflect on.

The range of approaches used – Collective Worship follows a format of School Prayer, introduction, hymn, story or activity, reflection / Lords Prayer. A range of other approaches including collaborative tasks, dramas, question and answers sessions, Godly Play, music, Powerpoints and reflection opportunities are incorporated. A half termly / termly sung eucharist is also undertaken led by the local clergy at West Raynham and a half termly school service is undertaken and planned by the local clergy and Ethos Committee at Sculthorpe (Spring 2013 onwards). Opportunities for the children to lead aspects of worship are encouraged and planned as appropriate in addition to the work of the Ethos Committee.

The use of visitors to lead worship – The local vicar delivers worship every week in school and a half termly – termly eucharist in church. Other faith leaders from the Methodist Chapel and Salvation Army also deliver worship in school over a term. Other visitors come into school for specific foci in worship such as safety or a community event.

How worship is evaluated and monitored – Worship is regularly monitored by the Ethos Committee (Governors and children) as well as the head teacher. A monitoring format and cycle is planned and followed. Monitoring is reported back to full governors on a regular basis as part of the committee section of governor meeting agendas.

Policy Agreed by Staff: 17th March 2014

Policy Agreed by Ethos Group:

Policy Ratified by Governors: 2nd April 2014

To be reviewed annually.

Date	Reviewed by	Any amendments:
2014		
2015		
2016		
2017		
2018		

C Allen (Exec Head Teacher)