

Corvedale CE Aided Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Corvedale Church of England Aided Primary School aims to provide the best quality education possible in a stimulating environment where children feel happy and secure. Christian values such as love, charity and forgiveness form the foundation of our ethos, creating a caring and tolerant atmosphere for learning where cultural diversity is valued.

Section 25 of the 1944 Education Act requires general provision for Collective Worship in Voluntary Aided Schools. The 1988 Education Reform Act requires all such schools to arrange a daily act of worship.

There will sometimes be points of overlap with the RE programme offered by the school. Worship can never be the sole or even main vehicle for delivering RE. It does, however, make a powerful contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our children.

We recognise that 'assembly' and 'collective worship' are two separate issues. However for the purposes of this document, the term 'assembly' will be used to cover both assembly and collective worship together.

At Corvedale CE Primary School we hold a daily act of collective worship, which is of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the Christian tradition. We follow the principles below:

- Collective Worship should be inclusive although this is difficult when covering the whole 4-11 age range
- Collective Worship should contribute to the Religious, Spiritual, Moral and Cultural Education of our pupils

Collective Worship should offer pupils opportunities to:

- Explore and share beliefs;
- Consider and reflect upon the importance of prayer, meditation and silence;
- Consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives, and thus help in the development of their own faith;
- Think about others and their needs and to develop a sense of community which encompasses gender, age, race and opinion;
- Appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold differing ones to them;
- Re-affirm, interpret and put into practice the values of the school;
- Celebrate the various achievements of members of the community that are held to be of worth;
- Celebrate the shared values of the school together thereby encouraging fellowship;
- Feel a sense of wonder at the beauty and mystery of the world;
- Share emotions such as love, joy and hope, friendship, acceptance and forgiveness;
- Be introduced to various aspects (prayer, hymn, drama, art) of worship in an open and honest atmosphere.

Our daily assembly includes our act of collective worship. It is more than just a fulfilment of statutory requirement. It also provides an opportunity for the whole school to share individual successes and to re-affirm our commitment to our accepted ethos and to praise and thank God together.

Our assembly usually takes place in the Hall. We set the scene with the children entering the room quietly to some music. A formal greeting starts the assembly. A candle is used to mark the beginning

of our prayers and quiet reflection. A cross is situated in our focus area. Other visual aids and Anglican symbols are used including a cloth for the assembly table that is changed according to the season and an Advent Crown. For safety reasons children are not involved in lighting the candle, although monitors are responsible for organising the music and setting out the candle on our focus table.

Each assembly usually includes a story with a message or moral, a chance for children to participate, a thought to share and reflect upon, one or more prayer and a song of praise. Children often lead our prayer.

We also have a time each week when we celebrate the achievements of individuals - this may be excellent work, excellent effort, excellent behaviour or the recognition of sporting/musical achievements outside school.

We observe the cycle of the church calendar and have a collection of prayers and hymns that create a framework for worship in our school. We also acknowledge events such as Harvest, Mothering Sunday & Remembrance Sunday and our Year 6 leavers.

The following are examples of themes that may be used in our assemblies:

- Reverence for beauty, truth and love;
- Sympathy for the unfortunate and deprived;
- Delight in life;
- Admiration for the virtues of honesty and courage;
- Wonder at the natural world;
- Other faiths and cultures

For Worship to contribute to the Spiritual Development of our pupils we aim to:

- Celebrate all that is good and lovely about life - especially our school, our community and our beautiful natural surrounds.
- Provide opportunities for children to share what is meaningful and significant to them
- Give time for silent reflection
- Provide an environment, which is conducive to worship
- Ensure our worship is adequately resourced
- Invite responses from the children

Our 'special assemblies' to mark Christmas and Easter are held in the local parish churches within the Corvedale and are usually led by the local vicar. Parents and other visitors are also invited to these assemblies.

As a school we meet together as follows:

- 10.15 - 10.30 most days unless prearranged
- Monday Mr Brough. Setting the theme for the week. Story-based secular or non-secular. Issues related to school. On alternate weeks Acts2, a local church group present Open the Book bible stories
- Tuesday Teachers in rotation. (9:15am) Story-based secular or non-secular.
- Wednesday Class based.

- Thursday Rev John Beesley

- Friday Mr Brough (9:15am) or Achievement Award assembly. 2.45pm

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education and acts of collective worship. The school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Date of adoption: **June 2015**
Review Date: **Summer 2018**

Chair of Governors:

Headteacher: