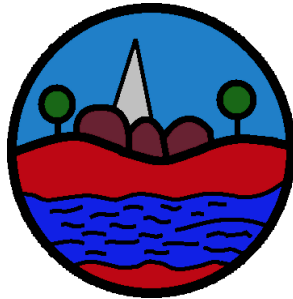


Rockcliffe CE School

Collective Worship



Review date June 2023

Name of Policy – Collective Worship

Rockcliffe CE School – Collective Worship Policy

Rockcliffe CE School will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’, it is our statutory duty to provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils.

The Collective Worship leader is responsible for arranging Collective Worship, which are of an overtly Christian character reflecting the school’s ethos and close affiliation with the Church of England. Worships are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak to the Head teacher.

Collective Worship at Rockcliffe CE School is first and foremost for the spiritual benefit of all our pupils. It is a shared activity which allows for a variety of responses. Opportunity for reflection and responses, prayer, story, drama and art are used to appeal to the pupils’ imagination.

Aims and Objectives

- To worship God
- To reflect on values that are Christian in nature and on their own beliefs
- To develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- To consider spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues
- To foster a sense of awe and wonder at the natural world
- To provide opportunities for celebration and thanksgiving

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Rockcliffe CE School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a ‘whole’ person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate, respond and where appropriate, lead
- reflect on what it means to be human
- consider the wonders and worries of the world

Curriculum Planning

Collective worship themes are based on our Christian Values, taken from 'Values For Life', global issues and Christian religious festivals. A half termly plan is created at the start of each half term where a clear focus and theme can be seen and developed by each member of staff delivering Collective Worship. Worship time may also be used to explore and reflect on issues and events that are happening locally and globally to enhance the children's understanding of the world around them, enhance the curriculum and children's cultural capital.

At the end of each theme, the plan is evaluated and referred to when planning the next theme. Worship is also reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection. Evaluations are fed into planning for future worships. These reflections and evaluations are displayed in our termly values books which are accessible to all and can be referred to in future worship planning.

Pupils are rewarded not only for academic success, but also for demonstrating their understanding of the ethos of the school and their commitment to our Christian values. Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced in a form which invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Acts of worship often include:

- stories and readings
- songs, hymns, and music
- prayer
- reflection
- creative silence
- sacred / secular readings/texts
- artefacts and natural materials
- children's contributions

Cross Curricular Links

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, values and religious education which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich class work through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

Reflection books are used following Worships as appropriate to allow pupils the time to record or draw their own thoughts and ideas.