

WITHYCOMBE RALEIGH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL, EXMOUTH

POLICY STATEMENT – COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

RATIONALE –

The Education Act of 1993 has kept the provision of the earlier 1988 Act, requiring all schools to provide a daily act of collective worship, to be broadly Christian, and for this to be so it should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief.

As a Voluntary Controlled School we will have a daily act of Christian worship which reflects the customs and traditions of the Church of England, and hence the Trust Deed by which the school was originally founded.

AIMS AND PURPOSES –

- To give the children an understanding of Christian values
- To help create a caring family atmosphere
- To provide an opportunity for pupils to worship God
- To enable pupils to experience a sense of mystery, awe and wonder
- To advance religious understanding, giving special status to Jesus Christ
- To encourage tolerance and respect for other people and the world around us
- To build self esteem for individuals
- To enhance community spirit within the school and its locality
- To celebrate ideals, principles and the achievements of the children
- To encourage a sense of personal and social responsibility
- To explore feelings and emotions in a challenging but secure atmosphere
- To allow the skills for worship to be acquired, practised and developed; considering the importance of prayer, meditation and silence
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To develop children's skills of reflection
- To provide a Christian framework for the delivery of the Every Child Matters framework

Our school worship should reflect children's own experience and give opportunities for reflection, reverence, joy, sorrow, praise, thankfulness, compassion and a feeling of pride. There must be a pattern and structure, but also a variety of flexibility of approach. Participation and response should be encouraged, whether through doing, listening or joining in the language and the content must be appropriate but also challenging. Pupils' views on Collective Acts of Worship will be sought annually.

GUIDELINES –

1. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Acts of Worship
2. Teachers and the Headteacher have the same right of withdrawal
3. The school attends worship each week as follows:

Mondays	YrF/KS1 Class Assembly KS2 Sung assembly
Tuesdays	YrF Class Assembly KS1/2 Assembly
Wednesdays	YrF/KS1/ KS2 Class Assembly KS1 Sung assembly
Thursdays	Class Assembly for all
Fridays	YrF Class Assembly KS1/2 Assembly

4. The time allocated to each day for whole school and department worship is approximately 30 minutes, although this may vary on occasions.
5. The worship themes link with the Church's year, school topics, outside events and SEAL focussed weeks.
6. We have a link with our local Church. Reverend Oswin leads our services in Church at Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter, Pentecost and a Leavers Service.
7. A termly Family Eucharist Service will be held at the school for Yr6 pupils and their family members.
8. We use a variety of resources in our worship, including poetry, stories, music, visual materials, the Bible, children's own work and participation and their own prayers.
9. Records need to be kept of all acts of worship.
10. Our act of worship reflects the customs and traditions of the Church of England, but also respects the integrity of individual faith and the beliefs of other denominations and religions.
11. Each year there will be a provision for the purchase of appropriate resources and for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities, as outlined in the School Management Plan.
12. Our policy will be reviewed every 3 years by the Staff and Governors in line with the programme laid down in the School Management Plan and the success of the Policy and our school worship will be regularly evaluated in a similar way.