

Collective Worship Policy

Policy Statement

At Princetown Primary School, we strive to educate our children to realise their aspirations and to contribute positively to society, guided by Christian principles.

An integral and important part of school life is the daily act of collective worship. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote the basis of our vision.

Through stories the children learn to be curious about the world, open in their experiences, overcome prejudices, encourage dignity and respect, live well together, celebrate individual differences and encourage kind, hopeful actions
– working together towards a hopeful, inclusive world.

Collective Worship is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Our collective worship policy is underpinned by the core Vision for Education of the Church of England. Specifically:

***Educating for wisdom, knowledge and skills:** enabling discipline, confidence and delight in seeking wisdom and knowledge, and developing talents in all areas of life.*

***Educating for hope and aspiration:** enabling healing, repair and renewal, coping wisely when things go wrong, opening horizons and guiding people into ways of fulfilling them.*

***Educating for community and living well together:** a core focus on relationships, participation in communities and the qualities of character that enable people to flourish together.*

***Educating for dignity and respect:** the basic principle of respect for the value and preciousness of each person, treating each person as a unique individual of inherent worth.*

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

Organisation

We recognise that collective worship should have something to offer and include all the members of the school community, including the adults who attend the worship.

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for all. Our current schedule is as follows:

	Type	Led by
Monday	Theme	Mrs Stoate
Tuesday	Visible Learning	Mrs Speare
Wednesday	Singing	Mrs Stoate
Thursday	Celebration Worship	Miss Byrom
Friday	Being Thankful Worship	Miss Byrom

When the classes do not gather together as a school, they have class worship. Once every half term, children work together in mixed age groups to create their own collective worship to share with the whole school. These are specifically aimed at inspiring their fellow pupils to take action. The children are encouraged to respond to collective worship through our reflection slips and class follow-up to whole school collective worship.

We have a collective worship committee who consider, reflect on and help organise collective worship themes.

Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for collective worship reflect the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events, both national and global. The Head teacher is responsible for creating the Collective Worship Plan for each term.

The Head Teacher makes available resources, powerpoints etc for staff to use if they wish. Pupils take it in turns to operate the system for the services and to support various aspects of the collective worship – eg. Taking part in stories, leading the Grace, gathering or sending responses, prayer, etc.

The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music. The children are involved in the worship throughout and this finishes with a prayer. The children then lead out as the music is played. Sometimes a candle maybe lit.

Singing worship aims to develop the children's understanding of new hymns and worship songs as well as learning them. The session ends with a time for reflection or a prayer. The children leave in the same way as before.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including Praise and Worship. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. This time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles.

At the end of the session, grace is said by either an adult or child in each class.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, Princetown Primary School ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship.

Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge. We have developed an enrichment package through **Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity**.

Parents/Governors/Local Community Issues

Children may be withdrawn from R.E. lessons at the wish of their parents. The Headteacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.

Equal Opportunities and special needs issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

This policy will be reviewed annually.