

Queen's Park CE/URC Primary School



**Queen's Park C.E/URC
Primary School**

Collective Worship Policy

May 2016

Reviewed: May 2019

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Ethos Statement

Recognising its historic foundations, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and the United Reformed Church and in partnership with the churches at parish, diocesan and local level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers all pupils.

“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”.

William Temple (1881-1894)

Collective Worship and the Law

Church schools must fulfil two legal requirements for Collective Worship:

- A daily Act of Worship for all pupils
- Collective worship in Church schools must be in accordance with the school's trust deed.

A Daily Act of Worship for All Pupils

The legal requirement for Church schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.

“The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.”

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

Overview

The law requires all schools to provide a daily, collective act of worship. As a Voluntary Controlled school the worship at Queen's Park is in accordance with our trust deed. (see above). It need not be held at the same time each day. In this school we will meet the requirements of the law in full. Where parents request it, their children will be withdrawn from the collective worship and alternative arrangements will be made for them.

Aims

1. To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
2. To develop in every child an understanding of the enormity of God's love for them (Ephesians 3:18)
3. To contribute towards spiritual and moral development
4. To enable children to explore their own beliefs;
5. To encourage participation and response;
6. To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
7. To develop an understanding of Christianity and the place of God in our world and our lives
8. To develop an understanding that God is always with us (Psalm 139/Matthew 28:20)

Together we believe, achieve and enjoy.

9. To develop in every child an understanding that God sees their heart and loves them even in their failings (1 Samuel 16:7)
10. To develop in the children an appreciation of beauty, awe and wonder

Objectives

1. Each day all learners will have the opportunity to participate in an occasion of worship and reflection of high quality.
2. A variety of different opportunities will be used to meet our statutory duty.
3. Strong links will be made between spiritual, moral, social and cultural education and religious education.
4. Collective worship will contribute to pupils' experience of awe and wonder.
5. A good ethos will be created for worship enabling children to enjoy music, singing and celebration.
6. Worship will be used to help children understand and experience the meaning of great religious festivals and holy days.
7. Worship will contribute to community cohesion and will promote learners' spiritual, social and moral education.

Strategies

1. On most occasions the school will meet corporately (either whole school or in departments) to worship.
2. On some occasions worship will be held in classrooms at appropriate times during the day and will be lead by staff and learners.
3. Learners will have an opportunity say grace before meals and prayers at the end of the school day.
4. Pupils will learn some well-known prayers and hymns and these will be used in worship.
5. Worship will be used for celebration and thanksgiving.
6. Pupils will be given opportunities both to participate in worship and to lead worship.
7. Occasionally, outside speakers will be brought in to address the children and, where appropriate, lead acts of worship.
8. On special occasions, worship will be linked to religious and other festivals, e.g. Christmas, Easter, Harvest and St George's Day.
9. Records of religious worship will be kept to show that the requirements of the law have been met.

Organisation

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Usual Timing	9.00am	9.00am	9.00am	9.00am	1.15pm
Organisation	Whole school	Whole school	Class worship	Whole School	Whole school
Place	Large hall	Large hall	Classrooms	Large hall	Large hall
Led by	Minister/Vicar	Head teacher	Teachers & children	SLT	HT/DHT
Purpose	Setting the theme for the week.	Exploring the weekly theme	Children to lead	Exploring the theme.	Celebration assembly

Focus for worship

In the hall and in each classroom there is a focal point for worship. These include a candle, a cross, a Bible, images relating to our Christian values, prayer books and artefacts. In the hall we use liturgical colours linked to the seasons of the church year.

These worship areas are monitored by the Ethos council who report to the Ethos and Distinctiveness Committee of the Governing Body.

Planning

Each half term we focus on one of our Christian values. Each week there is a weekly theme linking to the church season or festival or to the value. The worship themes are planned by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and provide staff with some ideas within each weekly theme. The person leading the worship then plans their individual assembly and records it on a worship record sheet.

Structure of an Act of Worship

An act of Collective Worship should normally be composed of the following elements:

- an opening greeting
- lighting a candle
- a song
- a Bible story or text
- an explanation of the theme
- a time of prayer and or reflection.
- a piece of music to listen to

Where possible the act of worship should encourage active participation through multi-sensory activities including drama, video, visual aids, images, music.

Monitoring

Children evaluate worship and fill in the worship evaluation sheets. When parents are present for worship children ask parents to contribute evaluations about the worship.

The link governor and the Collective Worship co-ordinator also monitor the impact of worship on the life of the school.

Ethos Council

The Ethos Council is made up of elected school council representatives and ethos members who have attended training about developing the ethos of a church school. The council meets monthly to discuss Ethos and Worship. Their responsibilities include observing and monitoring class worship, monitoring of worship areas, monitoring the impact of our Christian values and reporting back to the Ethos and Distinctiveness Committee of the Governing Body.

This policy will be reviewed during the summer term 2019.