

Brooke Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Updated January 2018

Signed by Governors

To be reviewed January 2022 (every 4 years)

Learning together; Growing together; Achieving together in God's love.

“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)

Philosophy

Brooke C of E School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to celebrate our status as uniquely-created and loved children of God. It is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in. It is planned to reflect themes from our Values Statement.

School Values Statement

At Brooke VC C of E Primary School we aim to enable children to develop all the skills they will need to become active, passionate and caring members of the society that they will help to shape.

We value the characteristics of compassion, wisdom, humility and trust and find ways in which each student can develop their leadership skills, demonstrating and developing these values each day.

As a learning community, we practise friendship and togetherness as key aspects of our journey. Daily we need to both ask for and show forgiveness within a just system which values thankfulness in all relationships and a hope for peace in all areas of our lives.

As a specifically Christian establishment we see God’s hand in all around us; the Glory of His creation. We understand that we all have different beliefs and we show respect for one another and a reverence for God.

The outcomes we hope for are young people who recognise their responsibility to serve others with endurance, gaining joy from seeing other people’s lives being improved by our efforts.

Collective Worship and the Law

Church schools in the diocese must fulfil two legal requirements for Collective Worship:-

- 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

- Collective worship in Church schools must be in accordance with the school’s trust deed.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in Church throughout the year.

Parents should be made aware that the school is a Church school and as such Collective Worship will be based upon the foundations and principles of the Church of England. This is best done through the school prospectus or on the school website. The governing body should be made aware of their legal responsibilities and be clear of their statutory responsibility to uphold the Christian foundation of the

school. This responsibility to uphold the Christian ethos and foundation of the school should also be made clear to staff on their appointment.

Aims of Collective Worship

It is our aim at Brooke VC C of E School is that worship should:

- reflect the Ethos Statement and Values Statement of the school
- be clearly planned
- be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils
- offer opportunities to worship God
- be inclusive and an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected
- offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church
- be regularly monitored and evaluated
- underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community
- be an opportunity for pupils to reflect on human existence
- help children explore and develop their own spirituality
- enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- offer opportunities to share worship with parents, governors and members of the local community
- celebrate special occasions in the Churches year and the life of the community
- show appreciation for the God given gifts and talents of the school community.

Responsibility for Collective Worship

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met. At Brooke VC C of E School the headteacher takes on the responsibility for organising and planning the worship. In this he or she will set the themes for the year, organise a range of activities, engage with the local churches and their incumbents, ensure that they follow the ethos and values of Brooke School and offer times for teaching, reflection, response, participation and prayer.

The Timing of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place at 10:00 from Monday to Wednesday, at 10:00 (or 14:45 if parents are invited) on Thursday and at 14:30 on Friday; a time when various groups within the school can meet together for prayer and reflection. It is usually held in the hall although St. Peter's Church is used on certain occasions in accordance with the 1998 Education Act which allows schools, on special occasions, to hold their daily Act of Worship elsewhere than in the school.

The planning and monitoring of Collective Worship

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Each term there is a theme for collective worship based on the School Values. These are published at the beginning of the year. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own

perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

One of the schools Foundation Governors has a role monitoring Collective worship at the school.

During each act of collective worship one child is responsible for completing the Assembly Log Book which details the content of the assembly and their thoughts on the activity.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Brooke VC C of E School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers in VC Schools, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Brooke VC C of E School.

Context of Collective worship

In order to promote children's learning, our acts of worship vary. Our current pattern Collective Worship is set out below:

Monday	-	Whole school – Led by the Headteacher
Tuesday	-	Whole school – Usually led by the Open the Book team from St. Peter's Church
Wednesday	-	Whole school singing – Led by Brian Orland (Organist at St. Peter's Church)
Thursday	-	Whole School – Led on rotation by the Headteacher, the staff or the children or a visitor
Friday	-	Whole School Celebration Assembly – Usually led by the Headteacher

We record our acts of worship to inform our learning and plan for further developments. We use a range of resources to enhance children's learning and experience of spirituality. These may include stories, music, videos, poems, pictures and posters and DVDs all of which we hope contribute to a stimulating and thoughtful time for our children.

Conclusion

Collective Worship plays a very important role in our school as we seek to develop our children in the skills of reflection and empathy, to encourage and celebrate their talents and to promote their spiritual and moral development.