

THE ARRETON & OAKFIELD FEDERATION

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

2018 - 2021

Approved: CCP COMMITTEE

Date: 9 October 2018

Date of review: October 2021

The Arreton & Oakfield Federation

Collective Worship Policy

As a federation of schools, we will comply with the requirements set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act regarding collective worship.

Rationale:

Each school has its own set of Christian values, which each underpin the life of the school (appendix 1). These values are encouraged within a caring Christian community. We celebrate together as members of a worshipping school community reflecting these values.

We provide a safe and healthy environment where everyone is happy. Offering creative learning opportunities, we encourage each child to flourish. We value links between the school and the home, church, community and worldwide. We encourage positive behaviour, respect for others, care for the environment and care for the extended school family.

Equality and Diversity

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our acts of worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Anglican Church. However, we conduct our celebrations in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

Derived from the Anglo-Saxon word 'wearthscipe', meaning honour, 'worship' may be described as a special experience which can spiritually lift us above the rush of everyday life, to one where we can take time to acknowledge the existence of God, (or a sense of something beyond oneself), and the created world, which requires some kind of response.

We fully recognise the need to provide experiences that do not exclude people of other faiths, or of none. There should be some spiritual gain for all, as each individual comes to recognise and celebrate the beliefs and values of people within the school, community and the world they live in.

We recognise that in Collective Worship, everyone should feel comfortable with their own personal response to the experiences encountered within the 'acts of worship'.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold some celebrations, which reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Collective Worship Policy

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to teach children how to worship, encourage prayer and spiritual reflection.
- to enable children to have rich and varied experiences of worshipping together as a community within each of our schools in the Federation, united in prayer, reflection, celebration and fellowship.
- to provide an opportunity for children, through worship, to develop an understanding of a Christian relationship with God;
- to help the children to develop an understanding of how Christians can approach God through Jesus;
- to promote the opportunity to participate in and become increasingly familiar with the traditions and culture surrounding worship in the Anglican Church.
- to enable children to recognise and appreciate Christian values of Love, Honesty, Trust and Hope for Oakfield and Perseverance, Friendship and Honesty for Arreton
- to encourage the spiritual development of each child and their sense of self-worth;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit and to nurture in them a caring attitude and value of life;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;

Organisation of collective worship

Collective worship takes a variety of forms throughout the school and is a daily occurrence for all children, (class, key stage or whole school).

Collective worship is conducted in a dignified and respectful way. It is a special time and children are expected to behave in an appropriate way. Acts of worship include opportunities for the children to be active, to reflect quietly, to sing and to celebrate.

The duration and content of acts of worship are considered carefully to ensure that it is appropriate for the children involved.

Collective Worship is celebrated through the use of religious signs, symbols and artefacts (candles, images, etc.), actions, silence and singing is central to fostering active and full participation and the spiritual welfare of all present.

Our acts of worship also celebrate the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate further in celebrations by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. These celebrations offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the

Collective Worship Policy

ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. We celebrate the successes of all the children in worship, regardless of race, gender, ability or faith background.

Through our Collective Worship programme, we also aim to maintain and strengthen the links with our federated churches of St George's, Arreton and St John's Ryde. School celebrations are held at least once a term in our local churches.

We regularly invite parents and other members of the school community to our celebrations. This promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work and celebrate together.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend our acts of worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this but are encouraged to do so as part of their acceptance of the specific nature of our school as a church school.

This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Details concerning requests for children who should be withdrawn from collective worship will be shared with appropriate staff and will be kept in the child's personal file.

Roles and Responsibilities

The RE Subject Leaders oversee the development of Collective Worship in the school and support other staff in ensuring this is of a high standard.

Our local clergy are fully involved in the worshipping life of the schools. At Oakfield, Revd Sue Theobald and at Arreton Revd Janice O'Shaughnessy are regular visitors.

The Foundation Governors and the Curriculum, Care and Partnership Committee have a particular duty to oversee the Anglican nature of the school and this involves monitoring Collective Worship.

Appropriate training and development opportunities are sought to ensure staff and Governors feel confident in their roles.

Collective Worship Policy

Monitoring and review

The policy and practice of collective worship will be monitored through the Section 48 Self-Review process. Specific governors will support the Headteachers and the RE Subject Leaders in leading the self-review process following the Diocesan guidelines.

RE Subject Leaders: Mrs Sarah Rowe, Oakfield; Mrs Esther Pierrepont, Arreton.

Federation responsibility Mr Colin Haley – Executive Headteacher

Incumbents: Revd Sue Theobald, Oakfield; Revd. Janice O'Shaughnessy Arreton

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Collective Worship Policy

APPENDIX 1

VALUES:

Arreton	Perseverance Friendship Honesty
Oakfield	Love Honesty Trust Hope