

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

Levens CE School is a happy, safe and inspiring place to grow and learn, where we enjoy the learning experiences each new day brings. Everyone is supported and nurtured through our distinctively Christian ethos and shared Christian values.

Definition

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school, meet together in order to learn and reflect on many different aspects of our world and our lives including: our Christian values, stories from the Bible, the life of Jesus, current issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; and for learning about British Values.

All maintained schools in England must provide a daily act of collective worship. Collective Worship is distinct from RE and our content is broadly in accordance with the beliefs and practices of the Anglican Church.

Aims

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of our school when our school community can:

- share common aims and values;
- celebrate achievement and special times;
- explore together the world in which we live;
- develop a community spirit;
- approach the 'threshold of worship'
- be supported in expressions of reverence, awe, wonder, gratitude, joy, serenity and respect.

Collective Worship also contributes to the development of the pupil providing opportunities to:

- regularly experience opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer;
- consider spiritual and moral issues;
- explore their own beliefs and spirituality;
- reinforce positive attitudes;
- participate and respond;
- reflect on what it means to be human;
- explore the responses that have been made to big questions by people of faith.

Practicalities

Our pupils take part in a daily act of worship organised in a variety of groupings in the school hall or classrooms. Worship is led by staff, visitors and pupils. We welcome the Open the Book team on Mondays and Rev Bryan, incumbent of the parish, leads weekly worship too. Celebration Assembly takes place on a Friday afternoon and is an opportunity to share pupil's learning and celebrate achievements. Parents, friends and governors are invited to join us regularly on Fridays and on special festival occasions where services are held in St John's Church e.g. Harvest, Remembrance, Easter, Christmas and our Leavers' Service.

To create a sense of occasion and an atmosphere of calm, music is played as pupils enter quietly and we use a Worship table with a cross, candle and The Bible.

Content and Approach

Our themes for Collective Worship are based on:

- Christian Values, one chosen each term;
- 'Root and Fruits' Resources for collective worship;
- presentations of Bible stories in Open The Book;
- providing opportunities for pupil participation;
- making links to our school curriculum, national events and initiatives e.g. Anti-Bullying Week;
- providing opportunities to revisit different themes progressively and developmentally.

Worship leaders are required to respect the life choices of pupils and other participants particularly being sensitive to those of the Christian faith, or of other faiths or with no faith. We do this by being aware of the power of language and expression.

Collective Worship begins with our Welcome Blessing and has a stimulus: for example a story/poem, a picture, a video, a piece of music or an object that contributes to the learning. It includes a period of reflection, which may take the form of an invitation or a question to reflect in a moment of silence or with talking partners; and opportunities to experience, lead and take part in different types of prayer, e.g. The Lord's Prayer. Singing is a part of our worship and enables pupils to be involved in this joyful method of praise. Pupils prepare and lead acts of worship, with support from staff, throughout the year. They are invited to take part in daily worship through greetings, prayers, activities, volunteering and evaluation. Pupils who do not wish to pray are encouraged to be still and reflect on the key messages of the worship.

The 'Roots and Fruits' resources are used in Collective Worship each week, following the pattern: Welcome, Learning, Reflecting and Responding.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The whole school is given the opportunity to evaluate Collective Worship through contributions to our Reflective Journals, kept in each classroom. Pupils, staff and governors evaluate Collective Worship and these evaluations are used to inform future planning and provide a basis for the development of our Collective Worship provision.

Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Should any parent make such a request, appropriate arrangements will be made for the supervision of the children following consultation. Parents who have any concerns about the provision and practice of collective worship are encouraged to contact the head teacher to discuss this.

This Policy was agreed by the governing body of Levens CE School on 19th March 2020

Signed (Chair of Governors) S Bishop

This Policy is due for review in Spring 2023