

Collective Worship Policy

The school's vision statement is taken from Matthew 22 verse 39,

“Love Your Neighbour as yourself.”

Dinting School aims to create a happy, secure, stimulating and challenging learning environment, in which each child can develop to their full potential. Dinting School aims to create a family atmosphere in which Christian care is offered to all members of the school community.

Christian values are built into the ethos and teaching at Dinting School, promoting attitudes of mutual respect and responsibility.

Philosophy

Dinting Primary school is a Church of England Voluntary Aided. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to be family and to inspire ourselves with God's vision of the world. It is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

At Dinting we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our students Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Aims

It is our aim at Dinting Church of England (VA) Primary that worship should:-

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity experience stillness and quiet
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity respond to Christian language and symbolism
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- to help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

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.

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. The school accepts the desirability of this legislation but has some practical difficulties in meeting this requirement. To provide students with variety in their experience of worship acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day however in recognition of the important place Collective Worship has to the school every effort is taken to begin the day with worship.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Governors who after consultation with the head teacher has delegated responsibility to the Collective Worship lead.

By broadly Christian in this school we mean that:-

- Worship contains some elements which accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, e.g. The Sermon on the Mount.
- Sharing with students the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as Love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.
- An acceptance that we are all God's children and that we all need His help both for this life and eternal life.

Acts of Collective Worship at Dinting take into account the student's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds. The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow and Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image projected into the wall, moment of silences and reflection etc.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Dinting 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..

Weekly Collective Worship Pattern

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| Monday | Whole school led by school member of the school community* or visitor. |
| Tuesday | Whole school led by school member of the school community*. |
| Wednesday | Whole school led by school member of the school community* or visitor. |
| Thursday | Whole school led by school member of the school community*. |
| Friday | Whole school Celebratory Worship led by member of SLT. |

* Member of the school community includes children, staff or, for those with appropriate training, governors.

The school Eucharist is held either in school or church which and is open to the school and wider community. In the school Eucharist, children who have been confirmed or receive communion in their own church are welcome to receive once permission has been given from their parent or career.

The collective worship lead is responsible for creating a termly calendar with themes and the names of individuals / visitors who will lead collective worship. On those days when a group is not in an Act of Collective Worship the teacher will develop /discuss the theme for the week with the class group allowing students the opportunity to reflect on the ideas he/she has heard that week.

Material for this is provided by the Collective Worship lead.

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Material which reflects the Church of England foundation of the school is used to give the children experience of Anglican worship and tradition. E.g. gathering prayers and responses from Common Worship, the lighting of candles, the marking of 'red letter' saints days and liturgical seasons. A range of songs and music is also used.

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 week there is a theme for Collective worship. It is expected that those leading worship that week will 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 students will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that worship leaders may feel that they need to respond to local or national events. One of the school's foundation governors has a responsibility for monitoring collective worship within the school and meets with the head teacher, Collective Worship Co-ordinator and others (where appropriate) to evaluate the impacts of worship for that term. The views of the children are vital to this and are collected by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator who brings them to the review meeting.

Resources

Resources for worship are kept by the worship co-ordinator in. The school has a budget to develop these resources.

This policy will next be reviewed by September 2024.

M. Wilson – Collective Worship Lead September 2022.