



Constantine
Primary
School



Kernow Learning
Building Excellent Schools Together

Collective Worship Policy

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School or Trust policy:	School

Meeting your communication needs:

We want to ensure that your needs are met. If you would like this information in any other format, please contact us on 01326 340554 or email constantine@kernowlearning.co.uk

Christian Distinctiveness

At Constantine Primary School we work hard; we respect everyone and everything; we are courageous; we are kind and helpful; we are always honest; we listen to each other and we celebrate our differences.

We believe that we will achieve through inspirational, exciting and challenging learning that forms the content of our curriculum. We aspire to create endless possibilities for our pupils and to make a positive contribution to society. We achieve by enabling everyone to flourish academically and emotionally, seeking to develop the moral and spiritual potential of every pupil. We feel that assembly and collective worship are an important aspect of school life where pupils and staff can feel part of a team within a community. We welcome parents and members of the community to take part in assemblies and collective worship and value their contributions. We recognise that legally we are obliged to have a daily act of collective worship and believe that it is important to lead the children in their worship.

Collective worship as distinct from assemblies is the only area of academy life which the law requires to take place every school day. Legal Requirements (for details see School Standard and Framework Act 1998 and Circular 1/94).

Aims

The aims and objectives of collective worship at Constantine Primary School are to:

- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to respond to the presence, power and peace – acknowledging religious beliefs of people across the world
- Evoke a sense of beauty, awe, wonder
- Enable children to become familiar with our British and school values (Olympic values)
- Provide opportunities for reflection, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language (and other religions) and symbolism and the cycle of the Church and religious year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience
- Explore a variety of ways of praying and reflecting, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well-known Christian prayers
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship
- Strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to, and reaffirming, the core Christian values which underpin the school's vision, policies, curriculum and moral code
- Develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts that each child and adult brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual
- Reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and learn to appreciate the significance of mystery i.e. that we can't understand and explain everything
- Foster a concern for others within the school community and wider world
- Deepen appreciation of the gift of the natural world and the importance of acting responsibly toward the environment
- Enable children to explore their own beliefs
- Encourage respect of other people's religious beliefs and practices.

General Principles

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion showing reverence and respect for everyone and everything. Collective Worship at Constantine Primary involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in our assemblies. 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 assemblies on the many aspects of different religions in our world. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school. We hold Collective worship that reflects the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This can be either a whole school, a key Stage or a class assembly for pupils for learn and reflect in. We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. Collective Worship is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the message, and to participate fully in reflection. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using resources, music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children. Our collective worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in collective worship by sharing their learning with the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective worship sessions provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and reflect on our school vision.

Reflection time plays an important part in promoting the values of the school which are linked to our school aims and to relevant events and people appropriate to the calendar. We hold our celebration collective worship that parents are invited to every half term for each Key Stage. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows that the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.

All pupils must take part in a daily act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn from it by their parents.

- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship.
- *At present no children have been withdrawn.*
- Collective worship is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', to be within the broad traditions of Christian beliefs, on the majority of occasions.

Our local 'Open the Book team' attend on a weekly basis. A small team of volunteers from our local church of different denominations attend each week to deliver Open the Book stories giving the children the opportunity to see, hear, and take part in the major stories from the bible. This is part of a national scheme organised by the Bible Society, and Open the Book aligns to the criteria used by OFSTED when inspecting collective acts of worship. The educationally sensitive scripts are used successfully in schools with a wide ethnic and religious background and there is no coercive content. The time for reflection is suitable for children of all faiths and none.

The planning of Time Together

Collective Worship is planned to take account of the major festivals and seasons of the calendar and of different world religions, and to link with the curriculum plan and SMSC plan. It also covers other initiatives or topics of interest within the school. Plans are made annually, are reviewed half termly, and aim to provide continuity and progression, without undue repetition. Opportunities are considered to develop spirituality, and reflection, over a period of time. Themes are based around world news, school rules, Jigsaw (PSHE Scheme) themes, British and Olympic Values.

Those responsible for leading Collective Worship include the Executive Head Teacher, Head of School, teachers and visitors. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading collective worship to approach it from their own perspective. Resources to aid and guide planning include picture news as well as online content drawn from assemblies.org. and many other resources including Twinkl and Project

Evolve. Children and families are also encouraged to continue exploring the themes at home each term through our school newsletter. This will mean that by the end of the period, the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively, class teachers are also encouraged to develop their Collective Worship from events that occur on the curriculum or in the news during the week. We often use the resource, Picture news, to aid this. This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events. Any act of collective worship should be an experience which is inclusive and where all children can contribute and gain.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship, however any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship. In this case the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request, however, as Collective Worship occupies such a daily place in the life of our school, there is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the Executive Headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Senior Leadership Team keep a record of all children who have been withdrawn from Collective Worship. In addition, each class teacher keeps a record, in their planning, of all class assemblies that take place.

Format

There is no hard and fast format as it is essential that acts of reflection have a degree of spontaneity and flexibility, but the following elements are desirable:

- The act will have a clear focus or theme.
- There will be time for reflection and stillness.
- A hymn or song related to the main theme of worship may be sung at an appropriate place
- Recorded or live music may be used to create an atmosphere or focus.
- A greeting is exchanged between the leader and participants.
- Included in Collective Worship may be stories, Bible readings, dramatised readings, poetry, drama, dance, artefacts or other visual aids
- At an appropriate point prayer, thoughts and reflection opportunities are made. These may be drawn from published works or from the children themselves.
- Any notices etc, will be clearly separated from the Time Together focus. This is also the case when a special time is set aside to acclaim children who have made special achievements.

Planning, Recording and Evaluating

Whole school Time Together sessions will be planned and recorded with documentation. Ms Claire Smith is currently the Collective Worship Lead and provides guidance and support by organising whole school themes across the year. Collective Worship can be evaluated by those leading the reflective sessions, other staff, the pupils for whom the Collective Worship is intended or members of the LGB. Feedback from any of these groups will help to improve the quality of Collective Worship offered to the pupils. Paperwork is kept to a minimum to support teachers' workload. There are specific times across the year when the whole school focus on a united theme will permeate many different aspects of school life. Monitoring of Collective Worship Planning and provision of reflection is informally monitored on a regular basis.

Conclusion

At Constantine Primary School all should view Collective Worship as meaningful and valuable, a time when all adults and children are as one to reflect on joys, and sorrows, to express thanks, share concepts and experience and re-affirm the values of the school community of which they are all part.