



Benington C of E Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19: 14

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1. RATIONALE

The staff and governors at Benington Primary School see the main purpose of the school as that of providing an excellent education both academic and social in a Christian context for all its pupils.

One of the school's main aims is the achievement of high academic standards and a sense of personal worth for all its pupils through encouraging them to do their best and fulfil their individual potential. Our school therefore welcomes all children, whatever their family faith, if parents wish an education in a Christian context for their children.

2. CURRENT ORGANISATION

In accordance with statutory requirements, at Benington Primary School collective worship is placed at the centre of the school's daily life. Worship is generally organised on a whole school basis and is led by staff, visitors and of course the pupils themselves.

One of the ways Benington Primary School fulfils its Christian character is by having regular services in our local church, St. Peter's, from time to time, such as for Easter and Leavers services and by inviting the clergy into school to lead worship and take part in the children's religious education lessons.

The spiritual, social, cultural and moral welfare of all pupils, whatever their background, is of prime concern to us as a school. However, Christian values are built into our ethos and teaching and are reflected in the cycle of themes on which our daily acts of worship are based.

3. NATURE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The definition of worship we have evolved at Benington Primary School in consultation with staff, governors, parents and the diocese is the gathering together of our school community to learn about and to praise God.

Collective worship is an opportunity for children to explore the spiritual dimension of their world. Collective worship will include stillness and reflection as well as words, stories, pictures and symbols, prayers and hymns, songs and music. There will be room for questions and answers – and sometimes the admission that there are no answers. There will be expressions of thankfulness, praise and joy. Feelings of sadness and loss will be included when appropriate. Collective worship allows opportunities for corporate information sharing. Care will be taken to differentiate between worship and notices. Every act of collective worship should have a clear beginning, middle and ending.

4. DELIVERING COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

In our school the process of collective worship takes place through a variety of media, song, story, drama, poetry, music etc. Collective worship is non-curriculum time and should connect with, and reinforce, the curriculum but not be constrained by it. Collective worship takes place through circle time as well as adult-led worship time. All collective worship is timetabled and is usually held in the morning when we feel children are at their most receptive. Children are encouraged to be active by participating in appropriate ways.

Themes for Collective Worship will be chosen by the co-ordinator and incorporate roots & shoots SEAL resources (see PSHE Policy for more information) and diocesan resources and involve regular bible readings whilst reflecting a wide variety of approaches. They may be seasonal or follow themes related to school issues or the exploration of particular religious practices. When appropriate, collective worship will engage with any event, local, national or world, of which the children may be aware, and offer appropriate worship in response. There is always room for spontaneity.

The incumbent will be encouraged to lead collective worship on a regular basis. Ministers from other Christian denominations will also be encouraged to take collective worship. From time to time it may be appropriate for visitors representing charities, organisations or projects to lead, or contribute to collective worship.

During the week the children experience a range of timetabled collective worship. The week begins with an assembly led by the Headteacher or Senior teacher and this sets the theme for the week. Throughout the week collective worship is led by other staff, pupils and clergy members. The week ends with a Friday Celebration where parents are invited to share the children's achievements for the week, both in and out of school.

5. LEARNING EXPECTATIONS AND INTENDED OUTCOMES

Education, celebration, praise and hope are therefore essential features of our worship at Benington Primary School. Our aim through worship is primarily to educate our children and make them aware of what it means to be a community committed to serving and caring for each other, God and our environment.

In so doing we hope to create an atmosphere in which pupils are invited to explore issues for themselves, reflect upon and learn from their own experiences of others, develop sensitivity and a sense of wonder, awe and mystery for the world of which they are a part.

6. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing our common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes and values. It is about affirming the equality of each individual in God's sight, whatever a child's gender, ethnicity, physical or mental ability. We encourage all children to take part in school worship. We will, however, respect parent's requests for children not to participate if their own beliefs will not allow this (see Withdrawal appendix in R.E. Policy).

7. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The staff and governors at Benington Primary School are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from collective worship, whatever their academic ability. Every attempt is made, therefore, to ensure materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests.

8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

A record of collective worship is kept by collective worship monitors (Oak class children) in a folder in the hall. This folder is reviewed termly by the collective worship co-ordinator.

Evaluation strategies currently used by staff for assessing the outcomes of collective worship are:

- Observation of the children's assertiveness and level of interest during assemblies
- Verbal classroom feedback from pupils
- Feedback from assembly monitors, written and verbal
- Observation of the children's general behaviour in and around school and towards each other
- Monitoring of Collective Worship folder by collective worship co-ordinator termly
- Feedback from School Council members