

PENSHURST CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Faith in Our Future



Worship Policy

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Approved by the Governing Body on 13 th February 2019		
Signed by the Chair of Governors:		
Signed by the Headteacher:		

Mission Statement

At Penshurst CE Primary School we seek to develop each child's unique personality. Driven by an ethos based on the Christian Values and nurtured through individual pastoral care, children are inspired to strive for excellence and realise their true potential. Our ultimate aim is for them to become reflective life-long learners, able to embrace new challenges confidently, in an ever-changing world.

Introduction

Our Collective Worship Policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship will reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian Act of Worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

Aims of Collective Worship

- To reflect our School Mission Statement
- To promote the School's Christian Values whilst recognising the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions and belief systems.
- To develop a respect for and an understanding of different beliefs.
- To allow children time to express themselves in Worship and give them opportunities to question the meaning of life relating to matters of faith.
- To engage, inspire and enable children to increase their awareness of God through a rich variety of expression: music, drama, word, art and time for reflection.
- To involve children in the planning, presentation and evaluation of Worship
- To help pupils explore and develop their own spirituality and experience of what it means to Worship, deepening their understanding.
- To develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly.
- To foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it.

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following will be used as representing the shared Christian elements of Collective Worship.

- Using the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories.
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints' Days.
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the Grace.
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to rap.
- Experiencing Christian symbols in Worship and reflecting on their meaning : cross, crucifix, bread and wine, and candles.
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection.
- Using Anglican sentences and responses.
- Encouraging links with the Worship of the local Parish Church.

Organisation of School Worship

In compliance with the law and our trust deed, we provide an Act of Worship daily which reflects the Anglican status of the school. We use the Rochester Diocese materials (A Fresh Approach to Collective Worship). Different members of staff lead Worship within school. We are supported by a range of visitors including the Rector, guest speakers, our Leading Lights and our Worship Team.

A variety of types of Worship experience are included: prayer, music, silence, Bible Reading, story, dance, puppets, drama etc.

Our six chosen Christian Values underpin all we do in school and are regularly discussed in Worship. However we do look at individual values so that pupils can gain a greater understanding of them.

All Worship is for the whole School and we encourage our youngest children in Reception to join us. On Wednesdays, Worship takes place in classrooms, where infants and juniors can reflect on the weekly theme at their own level.

Special Events

There is a central Worship Area in the School which provides a space to focus on key themes: Easter, Pentecost, Creation, Harvest and Christmas. Leading Lights, supported by a member of staff, create Prayer Stations which help children to understand Christian beliefs and festivals in a relevant and kinaesthetic way. All members of the school community are encouraged to join us at our annual 'prayer station' event.

The School attends Church as often as possible and all children take part in some celebration (Nativity, Carol Service or similar) at Christmas.

Evaluation and Monitoring

Worship will be evaluated by staff, pupils and members of the SMSC Governors' Sub- Committee.

Parents may also be asked to review the impact of Worship on their children. Feedback from evaluations will be used to improve the quality of worship for pupils.

The SLT will carry out a self-assessment using the SIAMS Self-Assessment document.

Worship is inspected under S48 of the Education Act.

Parents' Right to Withdraw their Children from School Worship

Worship is an important part of our school day and we hope that everyone will feel able to participate. However, under the 1996 Act, parents share the right to withdraw their children from collective worship on grounds of conscience. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the decision with parents.