

CLIFFORD CHURCH OF ENGLAND
INFANT SCHOOL

POLICY STATEMENT FOR WORSHIP

To be Reviewed: October 2018*

Reviewed by: S. Preston

"God prepares good things for us: he teaches us how to enjoy our time with him.
God is with us wherever we go."

Collective worship in Clifford School is based upon:-

- the organisation and planning of the worship within the broad traditions of Anglicanism which underpin whole-school worship or smaller group acts of worship.
- collective worship should be appropriate, having regard to the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of the pupils involved.
- collective worship is seen as part of religious education and is also based on the values and qualities which we consider important such as:-
respect for every individual; respect for our environment;
enabling every member of the school to achieve their potential.
- the importance of staff and pupils in the development of a whole - school ethos; they share together in worship in order to support the promotion of Christian values.

The purpose of collective worship in our school is to:-

- * reflect on the significant features of human life.
- * explore our response to the world we live in.
- * learn about the Christian traditions upon which our society is based.
- * enable us to develop our own response to the spiritual side of life.

Children will be encouraged to respond positively to the religious experiences of others.

Parents may exercise their right by law to withdraw their children from collective worship and religious education lessons. Teachers are also allowed to withdraw from collective worship. It is hoped, however, that as a Church School the worship in Clifford School is of a kind that includes everyone.

The whole school meet together in the hall for worship. The time of which may vary to meet the needs of the school. The law allows parents to withdraw their children from collective worship. Teachers are also allowed to withdraw from collective worship. It is hoped, however, that as a Church School, the worship in Clifford School is of a kind that includes everyone. The worship is led by the Headteacher, members of staff, members of St. Andrew's Psalter Lane Church, members of other churches. A typical weekly pattern is:-

Monday -	St. Andrew's Psalter Lane lead assembly
Tuesday -	Staff assembly
Wednesday -	Birthday assembly
Thursday -	Headteacher leads assembly
Friday -	Family assembly in the morning with a short reflective assembly at the end of school

Special services at St. Andrew's Psalter Lane Church are led by the clergy with the children participating. We also have some class/child led assemblies.

The worship is resourced with:-

A laptop computer and Interactive Whiteboard

Piano

Musical instruments - percussion

A variety of hymn books (for staff use)

Candles, a cross and hands in position of prayer

The school is building up RE resources and artefacts. Worship is presented in a fairly structured way, starting with appropriate music as the children come into the hall. This is followed by all, or some, of the following:-

- A prayer
- A hymn

- The assembly subject - story, use of visual aid, involvement of the children, time for prayer, thought, reflection
- Closing hymn
- Closing prayer/grace
- Appropriate music as the children return to their class.

N.B. In a busy and often noisy school day, the assembly is a time when the children have time to be quiet and reflective and the familiar structure used for most assemblies gives the children a sense of security and helps them to relax and be able to join in and concentrate on the worship.

We use a variety of materials in our assemblies, and we are continually looking for new resource materials to help in our worship. Usually, the worship stands on its own following a set theme, but sometimes it is followed up in the classroom.

The worship leader will ensure that the children are involved in the worship through hymns and prayer appropriate to the children's needs and also involving them in other aspects. eg. questions, helping with visual aids.

The St. Andrew's Psalter Lane assemblies are planned each term after consultation between the Headteacher and St Andrews Psalter Lane, and sometimes uses the Gloucester Diocese scheme, 'Values for Life' as a supportive tool.

The quality of worship is evaluated by:-

- a) The quality of the children's responses.
- b) Is the worship suitable for all the age groups and children of different attainments?
- c) Does it fulfil the terms of the 1988 Act?
- d) Is the worship valued by pupils/parents/staff?
- e) Are individual beliefs respected?
- f) Are there some links with the curriculum?

[*NB: This policy will be reviewed by D Gage & S Preston after the completion of the Diocesan led 'Understanding Christianity' course]