



Dunchurch Boughton Church of England Junior Academy

Collective Worship Policy

As a Church of England Academy we strive, to inspire and empower every child and adult to grow academically, socially, morally, spiritually and culturally in the knowledge they are loved by God and are safe and valued within our school community.

Our school motto underpins our vision and all aspects of school life:

Together we are stronger

And draws inspiration from:



At Dunchurch Boughton Church of England Junior Academy, Collective Worship forms an integral part of everyday school life. It provides children with the opportunity to reflect on their own lives and the lives of others, explore the Christian faith in greater depth and develop a well-rounded understanding of the world in which we live.

In accordance with the law for all schools and academies, at Dunchurch, we hold a daily act of collective worship which is of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the diverse traditions of Christian belief and marking the cycle of the church's year. We strive to ensure that our acts of worship are inspirational, invitational and inclusive for all members of our school community; an aspiration underpinned by the following aims and objectives and will be monitored and quality assured through the *Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools* (SIAMS)

Aims of Collective Worship at Dunchurch

- To foster a sense of personal 'worship' and collective fellowship, bringing the whole school community together.
- To explicitly link our vision and values to scripture and help staff and children grow on their own spiritual journeys as we focus on those values.
- To create an atmosphere of occasion and reverence where those who wish to worship feel supported and where others are brought into a meaningful encounter in a liminal space with something beyond themselves.
- To encourage in pupils a reflective approach to life.
- To introduce various aspects of religious worship to involve pupils and inspire everyone attending: prayer, singing, music, drama, silent reflection, art, poetry, story.
- To foster deepening understanding of theological concepts and the power symbolism and metaphor e.g. Trinity, Light, Bread.
- To provide opportunities to explore sensitively with pupils that is meaningful and significant to them in the face of life's mysteries.
- To celebrate all that is good and lovely about life - especially our school community,
- our friends and families and the natural world
- To foster feelings of gratitude and courageous advocacy.
- To foster an understanding that faith transcends politics and geographical boundaries as we make meaningful links with Christians across our Diocese, our country and the world.

Organisation and Structure of Collective Worship

Acts of worship are led by senior leaders, staff, children, clergy and invited visitors. All staff members are expected to participate in and lead worship whether in class or whole school. We understand that some children who attend Dunchurch come from a different religious background. We respect the traditions of other faiths and those who lead worship do so in such a way as to allow all children to take part with integrity. The rights of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship is enshrined in the 1988 Education Reform Act. Any parent who wishes this may consult the Head teacher.

Whole school worship takes place in our hall which has many other functions throughout the school day. To create an atmosphere of 'special time and sacred space', we give careful attention to:

- having a worship table which has a cloth to match the colours of the liturgical year;
- having a visual focus: candles, a cross, a plant, etc.;
- having a Bible on display;
- having calm music playing as we enter and leave the hall
- sometimes displaying a relevant picture, phrase or question on the screen to direct thinking and encourage reflection whilst waiting for worship to begin
- on occasions, having everyone entering and singing one of our well-known worship songs
- expecting that everyone (children and adults alike) enters the hall in an intentionally reflective manner.
- minimising interruptions from people walking through the hall during worship time.

Worship themes are mapped out alongside the liturgical calendar, but the school responds to local and national focuses and issues where relevant. Worship in sequence includes opportunities for worship related to the school's Christian values.

Members of the local community are invited into school to assist and enrich children's education in Collective Worship. Visitors are often invited in to deliver assemblies during special events and often stay after acts of Collective Worship to spend additional time with the children. Collective worship on Friday is completely inclusive, invitational and inspirational; members of the school community are welcomed to attend, to celebrate the achievements of the pupils and the school, fostering a shared sense of community.

The use of Prayer and Moments of Silence

We feel prayer is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts. Nevertheless, pupils should not be required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe. We have developed various forms of introductions to our prayers which provide children with the opportunity to participate if / when they so desire. The use of regular moments of silence provides opportunities for some pupils to respond in a personal way if they so wish. We do ask that all children are respectful during prayers using the model that Jesus taught in the bible when teaching his disciples the Lord's prayer. Our school prayer helps children define the positive aspects of our school as well as giving them a clear frame to follow.

Moments of silence, serenity and reflection are reinforced throughout the school by the embedded nature of calm spaces. An inclusive provision for all, calm areas are located in every room, allowing a safe, quiet place in which to self-regulate, using either strategies developed within class or through targeted intervention.

Monitoring

It is the role of the governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship, and the Chair of Governors, along with the Senior Leadership Team, to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governors concerned liaise with the Headteacher before reporting to the other governors on religious education and collective worship and supports the school with all issues relating to SIAMS.