

Lanchester E.P. (Cont.) Primary School

A Caring Community
Where All Can Flourish!



Worship
Policy



Our Christian approach to learning....



Our school is a Christian learning environment at the heart of its community. We promote care and respect, and expect high standards in all aspects of school life.

As a Church of England school, we aim to build a community clearly based on the Christian values of love, compassion, justice, hope and trust. By cherishing the unique value of each individual as God's child, we aim to build self-esteem and ensure each pupil has the opportunity to be the best person they can be. We seek to help each child to flourish as God intends, so that they might find life in all its fullness. This policy, and its associated procedures and protocols, is based on these key principles.

Our school aims to create a community in which everyone - without exception - is respected, valued and happy. In order to achieve the best for each person, we are fully committed to being supportive and open to new ideas but also having high expectations and a belief that we can always improve no matter how well we are doing. Collective worship is at the heart of our church school. It is the place where we find our common identity as a community and which gives expression to the Christian values which underpin all we do. It is the place where all members of the school, of whatever faith or world view, have the opportunity to reflect and to encounter the love of God which upholds and underpins all things.

"Brothers, I count not myself to have arrived: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before."

Phil. 3:13

The Education Act of 1988 re-emphasised the obligation laid on to schools to provide a daily act of worship. This school is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England School.

Every Child Matters to God

MISSION STATEMENT:

A Caring Community Where All Can Flourish

Introduction

The staff and governors of Lanchester E.P. Primary School, in partnership with the Diocese of Durham, aim to enable children to develop as honest, caring and thoughtful members of both the school and wider communities. We believe that they should understand the difference between right and wrong and know that each person is a unique individual whose well-being is important to all.

The Nature and Purpose of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is distinct from meeting together to exchange information or deal with organisational issues, although all these aspects may together form assembly. Worship involves us gathering together to learn about and to praise God, and to express feelings of worth and respect for ourselves, others, our local community and our world as gifts from God. The involvement of children, *e.g.* through drama and music is central to our worship; their contributions enable us to build up our focus worship area in the hall, where artefacts, pictures, order of worship etc. are displayed, in order to encourage children's continued reflection as they move around the school. Stillness and quiet are essential elements of our time together, and enable all children to develop awareness of the purpose of this special time. It is the time when those of all faiths and none may encounter the presence of God, however they understand this. It is the place where we give expression to our values and are shaped by the love Jesus expressed in his life and teaching. We feel the importance of reflection is essential in developing spiritual well being and every classroom has a reflection area that children interact with and access whenever they need.

THE LAW

Our school must provide an act of collective worship for pupils every day. Responsibility for arranging collective worship rest with the governing body after consultation with the headteacher; however the headteacher is responsible for meeting the requirements.

Collective worship should take place on the school premises. Acts of collective worship may be held off the school premises if they are additional to the statutory act of collective worship.

DEFINITION

Collective worship and assembly are not the same, although collective worship may be part of an assembly. Collective worship is defined as worship appropriate to a group of individuals possessing a range of beliefs, believers and non-believers.

- Worship in Lanchester E.P. Primary School reflects the traditions of the Church of England as set up in the Trust Deeds of the National Society.

RATIONALE

At Lanchester E.P. Primary School we believe that:

- Collective worship affects the whole ethos of the school and addresses attitudes, relationships, values and the uniqueness of all individuals.

AIMS

- To meet the legal requirements
- To highlight and nurture the spiritual dimension through experience of worship
- To respect the integrity of all participants
- To provide acts of worship that are educational and suitable for ages and aptitudes of all pupils
- To enable children to appreciate their worth and value
- To celebrate and express those Christian beliefs and values which bind all within the school community
- To encourage a positive and personal response to the school and the wider community
- To encourage respect and care for God's creation

OBJECTIVES

- To consider spiritual and moral issues and explore their own beliefs
- To consider moral issues
- To understand the importance of prayer
- To affirm values and commitment and re-inforce positive attitudes throughout the school
- To present basic Christian religious concepts and develop understanding of religious symbols and language
- To outline Christian values and develop a sense of community both within and outside the school
- To respond through active involvement in the presentation of the worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered
- To encounter beliefs, prayers, symbols and songs from the Anglican tradition in an appropriate manner
- To ensure that it is an educational activity and linked to the curriculum

LEARNING EXPECTATIONS AND INTENDED OUTCOMES

Education, enterprise, celebration, prayer, reflection, praise and hope are essential features of our worship at Lanchester E.P. Primary School. We aim to make children 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 rather than compelled to explore issues for themselves, reflect upon and learn from their own and others' experiences, develop sensitivity and a sense of wonder, awe and mystery for the world of which they are part.

ENTITLEMENT

At Lanchester E.P. Primary School we believe that collective worship is an important part of every child's Spiritual Development and all pupils regardless of race, gender, physical or academic ability are entitled to participate. Every attempt is made, therefore to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities and interests.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Training is provided for staff from a number of providers including: LA, Diocese and National Society.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Collective worship is totally inclusive. All ages and abilities, including our visually impaired pupils, are provided for in planning and delivery of collective worship.

WITHDRAWAL

We aim to ensure that collective worship is meaningful and relevant for all children and staff, for those with a faith background and those with none. Our school exerts no pressure on children to become worshipping Christians, or to participate actively in any activity that will compromise their own family faith or lack of faith. However, Christian values are built into our ethos and are reflected in the themes of our worship. Should parents wish to exercise their right to withdraw their child from collective worship, this is discussed with the head teacher. We aim to make all children and their parents feel that attendance does not compromise their own feelings and that collective worship is an important time when the school comes together as an “extended family”.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The acts of worship will be evaluated by the head teacher, worship co-ordinator and staff on a termly basis. Evaluation strategies used by staff for assessing the outcomes of collective worship are:

- observation of the children’s interest level and attentiveness;
- feedback from pupils, parents and visitors;
- observation of the children’s general behaviour in and around school, and to one another;
- a focused visit by Foundation Governors.
- Staff evaluations during staff meetings and particularly after Services in All Saints Church.

All these different types of evaluation, guide future worship and improve effectiveness when planning the next cycle.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes and values. It is about affirming the worth of each individual in God’s sight, whatever a child’s gender, ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP TO ASPECTS OF THE CURRICULUM

Collective worship can contribute to all other areas of the curriculum, enriching class work, providing different perspectives, promoting thought and understanding and encouraging further study.

LINKS WITH SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Collective worship can contribute to SMSC Development of the pupils through:

- celebrating all that is good and expressing thankfulness for the joy of being alive
- providing an opportunity to reflect on experience and to search for meaning in that experience
- stimulating a sense of awe and wonder
- giving time for reflection and exploration of inner space
- providing opportunities for pupils to share what is meaningful and significant to them
- helping to value a non materialistic dimension to life
- promoting an understanding of the difference between right and wrong
- promoting respect for people and property
- helping pupils to understand how their actions can affect others
- celebrating celebration of own and others’ religious and cultural traditions

PROGRAMME ELEMENTS

Themes for assembly follow the 2 year cycle of the church year. The school explores themes through stories, drama, hymns, prayers, responses, adult led discussion and a variety of art forms. Children are encouraged to think of the occasion as a special time, with discrete codes of appropriate behaviour. They are encouraged to reflect on how we can apply Christian values to our lives in school. The headteacher and religious co-ordinator keep plans and records of collective worship.

- At Lanchester E.P. Primary School the focus of worship will be Christian and in accordance with the Trust Deed. It will reflect the traditions of the Church of England as enshrined within the Book of Common Prayer and Common Worship.
- The content of daily worship at Lanchester E.P. Primary School is Christian, following the Church calendar with one worship a week concentrating on achievement and particularly concerning social and moral development.

OBJECTIVES OF OUR ACTS OF WORSHIP

- To provide opportunities for silence, for reflection, for experiencing and expressing awe and wonder
- To participate in praise to God by providing opportunities to celebrate in songs, hymns, readings and other ways
- To emphasis our Christian identity
- To contribute to each child's spiritual development
- To provide opportunities for individuals, groups and classes to present all or part of collective worship
- To develop contacts with our parish through involvement of the clergy and other members of the church congregation
- To provide a knowledge of religion, of both the Christian and other world faiths
- To encourage sensitivity towards other people's beliefs and values
- To develop values such as courage, love, consideration, pity and sacrifice
- To involve the wider community through involvement in leading worship

CONTENT

Pupils are required to "take part". This means that the act of worship must be one to which the pupil is capable of responding even though on a particular occasion some of the pupils may not feel able actively to identify with the act of worship.

There will be times when the worship is quiet, contemplative and serene and at other times it will involve loud music, laughter and dance. A balance programme will provide a varied format of prayers, readings, songs, drama and other activities as well as drawing on a wealth of liturgical material which is part of the Christian/Anglican tradition of worship.

The Bible is used as a source book for inspiration and learning.

ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT

The co-ordinator for Collective Worship is: Mrs Jane Davis Head Teacher

Worship takes place in school each day and in All Saints Parish Church each half term.

- The children are encouraged to lead and participate in worship. They have access to all resources and time to prepare to ensure confidence. This can include providing prayers, plays, dance, rap or leading the whole worship.
- On a Friday morning we have an achievement assembly where children's work is celebrated. Our Worship Leaders share prayers written by the children themselves in the prayer/reflection area.
- Each act of worship begins by the lighting of a candle and we all join by saying; Peace Be With You.... And also with you.
- Music is played as the children enter and leave the hall - children are responsible for setting up the powerpoint, CD and getting the chosen hymn ready for all children to see that day.
- The focus worship area's cloth and worship rota to reflect the colours of the church year.
- The school song is sang regularly and forms an integral part of our school.
- The Lord's Prayer is either said or sung regularly.

Representatives of outside agencies eg Barnado's, NSPCC, and a number of charities, are invited to lead worship as are members of other churches to ensure ecumenism.

PLANNING AND RECORD KEEPING

The planning sheet is completed termly in consultation with all staff and clergy.

The themes used are linked with the curriculum wherever possible and take into account the Church calendar and changing seasons based on the Durham Board of Education Themes.

Our Worship Leaders discuss that weeks' Worship in Class Assemblies on a Thursday morning. They record relevant comments which evaluate the worship. This is constantly under review to ensure we have high quality evaluations. Time is allocated for staff to discuss planning and evaluation.

LINKS WITH SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Collective worship can affect other aspects of the curriculum.

It can contribute to spiritual development as follows:

- It can celebrate all that is good and express thankfulness for the joy of being alive
- It can provide an opportunity to reflect on experience and to search for meaning in that experience
- It can stimulate a sense of awe and wonder
- It can give time for silent reflection and exploration of inner space
- It can provide opportunities for pupils to share what is meaningful and significant to them, including the "darker" side of life
- It can help value a non-material dimension to life

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP CAN CONTRIBUTE TO MORAL DEVELOPMENT AS FOLLOWS:

- It can help promote an understanding of the difference between right and wrong
- It can promote respect for people and property
- It can help pupils to appreciate how their actions can affect others
- It can develop awareness of issues of social justice, development and responsibility for creation.
- It can give an understanding that love for God and neighbour is fundamental to all Christian Ethics
- It can provide stories, example, inspiration and models to follow N.B. In the life of Jesus.

SOME PRINCIPLES TO FOLLOW

Collective worship at Lanchester E.P. Primary School;

- Should be Gathering, Engaging, Responding, Sharing (Please see section below)
- Should be curricular
- Should be inclusive
- Should be educational
- Should contribute to the religious education of all pupils
- Should be shaped to the needs of our particular school
- Should contribute to the spiritual and moral development of children

VISTING SPEAKERS:

Visitors bring different perspectives into the school and they can participate by:

- leading the worship
- introducing their charity works
- providing a personal viewpoint on faith and life issues
- linking the school to the community

Visiting speakers are encouraged to lead worship, if appropriate. Speakers are made aware of the school policy on collective worship, arrangements agreed with the head teacher and the content agreed.

GATHERING, ENGAGING, RESPONDING, SHARING

GATHERING

Creating an atmosphere which is conducive to worship is very important. We choose music which encourages a feeling of calm expectation. We greet each other at the start of Worship with 'Peace be with you' and the response of 'And also with you'. We always light a candle to mark Worship.

ENGAGING

Engaging relates to the main substance of the act of collective worship where we engage with the message of the day. In essence we are listening to God's message to us. This may take many different forms – storytelling, drama or music, images, songs or meeting visitors. In our Church of England School, in particular, this should be an opportunity for children to engage with the Bible and Christian teaching.

RESPONDING

Following the engagement, we respond to what we have heard and seen. We respond both as a school community, but also as individuals – this is where the children and adults, *if they wish to do so*, may actually be said to be worshipping God. The response may take many forms - it could be singing, prayer or reflection. It could also be a practical response, such as planning to create something, or to embark upon fundraising for others.

Music and singing engages both hearts and minds in a way that spoken words often do not – the Church of England teaches much of its theology through hymns. Singing, in particular, gives schools an opportunity to bring a multicultural dimension to their worship, whilst at the same time recognising the worldwide dimension of the Church.

Reflection time is important as it allows the children and adults to think over something of what they have heard during Worship and internalise it. It starts with the leader telling the children what it is they should be reflecting on and is sometimes supported by showing a photograph or playing some reflective music.

Prayer is one area where our children can lead in worship. We introduce each prayer telling children that if they want to say it with us, then they join with us in saying 'Amen' at the end.

SENDING

The end of an act of collective worship is marked in a positive way – like the beginning – we have not simply 'finished'; we are being sent out to love and serve one another and to make a difference in the world. We are all dismissed with God's blessing and singing a song.

WORSHIP ORGANISATION

DAY	PARTICIPANTS	LEADER	TIME
MONDAY	WHOLE SCHOOL	Head Teacher	10:30 am - KS1 & KS2
TUESDAY	KEY STAGES	Revd Kalus	10:15 am - KS1 10.30 am – KS2
WEDNESDAY	KEY STAGES	Key Stage Leaders	10:30 am
THURSDAY	CLASS WORSHIP	Class Teachers	10.30 am
FRIDAY	WHOLE SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY	Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher	10.15 am

- Foundation Stage pupils hold daily acts of Worship in their own environment
- Pupils and staff visit All Saints Church at the end of each half term for worship
- There is a half-termly Eucharist for Key Stage 2, led by Y5 and the local clergy, (Holy Communion is explained to children by local clergy in RE lessons in Y5. Pupils are admitted to communion, prior to confirmation, if they wish to be, have the permission of their parent/guardian and are baptised.)
- There is a farewell Eucharist for Year 6 and family members in church at the end of the Summer term.



JOB DESCRIPTION

SUBJECT AREA: COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

NAME OF CO-ORDINATOR: Mrs Jane Davis

The following responsibilities form part of the role of co-ordinator for Collective Worship.

- Taking responsibility for planning, recording and evaluation of acts of worship.
- Developing and organising a resource bank of books, artefacts, music and visual aids and the ordering of these items.
- Playing a leading role in managing the Collective Worship team and co-ordinate planning.
- Monitoring and reviewing acts of worship.
- Will ensure the provision of INSET for members of staff.
- Developing and updating Collective Worship so that policy reflects practice and is kept up to date with current changes.
- Will keep up to date by attending courses and reading current literature.
- Ensure all acts of worship include essential elements such as stillness, reflection, opportunities for spiritual development and meet legal requirements.
- Will ensure provision is made for children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.
- Develop links with clergy and local church.
- To take a leading role in organising special events of worship.
- Providing various points of focus for worship and ensuring care of the worship table.
- Reporting to the Governing Body on Collective Worship.

This job description may be amended at any time after discussion, but in any case will be reviewed annually.

SIGNED _____ TEACHER

SIGNED _____ HEADTEACHER



Lanchester Endowed Parochial Primary School



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Autumn Term 2017

Week Beginning:

September	5th	New Beginnings
	11th	Friendship
	18th	Peace – International Day of Peace (21st September)
	25th	Compassion
October	2nd	Harvest
	9th	Generosity
	16th	Hope

Half term

	30th	Special People (<i>All Saints Day</i>)
November	6th	Remembrance (<i>Remembrance Day</i>)
	13th	Anti-bullying week
	20th	Wisdom
	27th	Dignity (St Andrew's Day – 30th November)
December	4th	Advent (<i>Advent Sunday – 3rd December</i>)
	11th	Incarnation
	18th	Christmas (<i>Carol service in Church</i>)



Lanchester Endowed Parochial Primary School



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Spring Term 2018

Week Beginning:

January	8th	Epiphany
	15th	Respect
	22nd	Conversion of St Paul
	29th	Candlemas
February	5th	Forgiveness

Half term

	19th	Sacrifice - Lent
	26th	Endurance
March	5th	Special People/Mothering Sunday
	12th	Justice (<i>St Patrick's Day – 17th March</i>)
	19th	Courage – Holy Week
	26th	Easter



Lanchester Endowed Parochial Primary School



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Summer Term 2018

Week Beginning:

April	16th	Community
	23rd	Reconciliation (<i>St. George's Day</i>)
	30th	Thankfulness
May	8th	Ascension Day
	14th	Christian Aid Week
	21st	Trinity Sunday

Half term

June	4th	Forgiveness
	11th	Humility
	18th	Inspirational People
	25th	Choices
July	2nd	Working Together
	9th	Achievement
	16th	Moving On (<i>Leavers' Service</i>)

