



ST EGWIN'S C.E. MIDDLE SCHOOL

Worship Policy

Updated - March 2021

Review Date – March 2022

Head Teacher	<i>ND Pull</i>
Date Adopted	March 2021
Date of Review	March 2022

PHILOSOPHY

St Egwin's Church of England Middle School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. The School's values are; love, respect and endeavour at the core of our Christian ethos. Worship is therefore an important part of the school as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to be a family and to reflect upon Christian values of; Wisdom, hope, community, dignity, joy and peace. It is attended by pupils, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

At St. Egwin's school we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to develop our pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. It is an integral part of character building and preparation for life after school.

We understand that we are part of a society that is changing. Life in Britain today is increasingly more secular but also a place where faiths live together, usually in harmony. As a Church of England school, we try to educate and inform our children and also teach values that will support our children as they go through life.

AIMS

It is our aim at St. Egwin's Church of England Middle School that worship should: -

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community of love, respect and endeavour.
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of concern and value to human beings
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity respond to Christian language and symbolism
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to take part in prayer and reflection.
- value all members of the community to experience the support of a Christian community.
- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

LEGAL STATUS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Acts of worship reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to school worship, special celebrations take place in Church.

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. The school accepts the desirability of this legislation but has some practical difficulties in meeting this requirement. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high-quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

To provide pupils with variety in their experience of worship. Acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or school groups.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Headteacher.

By broadly Christian in this school we mean that: -

- Worship contains some elements which accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions.
- Sharing with pupils the Christian belief that all Christians are called to explore key Christian concepts such as; dignity, community, wisdom, hope, joy, peace, love, respect and endeavour.
- Acts of Collective Worship at St. Egwin's Church of England Middle School consider the Pupils' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.
- All members of the community are invited to attend with integrity and dignity reflective and respectful of their beliefs and non-belief.

RIGHTS OF WITHDRAWAL

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from RE. If this happens then the school must be contacted by the parent. A letter will be sent to the parent explaining the legal position and inviting them to a meeting. If the parent still wishes to withdraw then that right should be upheld. The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

WEEKLY WORSHIP PATTERN

Monday	Whole school in the sports' hall, led by SLT and Reverend Spurr.
Tuesday	Form Worship (Roots and Fruits – reflective slide and bible quote)
Wednesday	Form Discussion and reflection of a contemporary issue (Picture News) KS3, Open the Book (KS2).
Thursday	Form Discussion and reflection of a contemporary issue (Picture News) KS2. Response time, pupils respond to their discussions on the impact of Jesus' life/message/values on their life in Evesham. Opportunities in a number of ways including journals, thoughts for the week, activities. KS3 Achievements Assembly (Main Hall). Celebrating and valuing the pupils
Friday	showing their response in actions e.g. Kindness Awards.

PLANNING, RECORDING AND EVALUATION

The collective worship coordinator is responsible for creating a termly calendar with themes and the names of colleagues who will lead collective worship. However, the collective worship co-ordinator may choose to deviate from the programme when the member of staff leading the worship has a particular interest in another theme. Similarly, special events, items in the news may also trigger a deviation from the programme. The Roots and Fruits and Picture News programmes are used to compliment the diary of world and awareness events. The materials or topics may come from a variety of sources to ensure the development of the pupils Spiritual understanding in the context of the Christian calendar and the moral, social and cultural context of the UK in the 2020s.

Collective worship is planned by the member of staff leading it and is co-ordinated by the PSHCE lead. Evaluation takes the form of feedback from pupils and staff to the co-ordinator.

The content and methodology of Collective Worship is varied following through routine of; *Welcome, Learning, Reflecting and Responding*. The aim is to engage pupils in a thought-provoking issue that has a basis in Christian values. The importance of Christianity in our culture – art, music, drama, festivals, reflection, discussion, literature, stories, poems, prayer – is also recognised in collective worship and the school's ethos. The school has implemented mindfulness training to the pupils to teach the power of silence and meditation, deepening the pupils' access to their spiritual selves.

One of the school's foundation governors, Reverend Andrew Spurr, monitors collective worship within the school.

RESOURCES

The Headteacher holds the budget for Collective Worship.

STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY

The school has a link with Dumila Primary School in Tanzania this has been established for many years. This supports our aims to show wider cultural practices and the practice of the Christian faith across the globe.

It is the policy of the school to invite visitors into school to lead and join our Worship. The school also encourages pupils to demonstrate the Christian character of the school by helping and serving others inside and outside the school. The school supports charities each year. Pupils from the school go out into the local community to help other people. Such work includes Caring Hands (meals for the homeless/unwaged), Fare-share, coffee mornings, supporting sporting events, animal sanctuaries and entertaining the elderly, plus many more.

COVID 19 IMPACT

Due to the impact of COVID 19 on the school community the school has adapted the Collective Worship time to respond to the needs of the pupils and staff. The timetable has

changed to accommodate the non-bubble crossing and the timings has radically affected the previous weekly routine. Theme's from improving the wellbeing of the pupils, wider community events and the liturgical calendar.

Day	Activity
Media Monday	Welcome and our place in the wider world.
Talking Tuesday	Oracy discussion on the theme
Working Wednesday	Learning Activity about the theme
Thinking Thursday	Reflection & response about the theme
Form Tutor Friday	Assembly or Form Community Building